

## Undergraduate research assistant – bee specimen digitization

### Job description

North Carolina is home to about 560 species of bees, but the distribution and conservation status of most of them is poorly known. Important information about these species remains hidden in natural history collections. The NC State University Insect Museum houses more than 55,000 individual bee specimens, about 15,000 of



which have never been digitized. That means their associated data—such as collecting date and location—cannot be included in range maps or status assessments.

The students in this NSF-funded position will help overcome this data gap by entering bee specimen data into local and national databases. Specific activities include:

- entering data into a spreadsheet or database
- assigning geographic coordinates to place names on collecting labels
- handling small, fragile insect specimens
- selected collection management tasks such as adding unique ID labels to databased specimens or integrating additional specimens into the collection

This position is supervised by two ecologists and bee researchers, Rebecca Irwin and Elsa Youngsteadt:

<https://irwinlab.weebly.com/>

<http://youngsteadtlab.org/>

<https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/entomology/museum/index.php>

### Minimum requirements/ education

Undergraduate status at NCSU

### Required skills and qualifications

Interest in entomology, biodiversity, collections management, or related fields

Ability to handle small, fragile specimens

Ability to accurately read small text on insect specimen labels

Attention to detail

Punctuality

Ability to work independently or in a team

### Desirable skills and experience

Coursework in entomology, library and information science, or related fields

Proven track record of accurate data entry

**Hours**

6 – 15 hr/week, starting the week of November 1, 2022 or thereafter; potential to continue in spring and summer

**Salary**

Anticipated hiring range: \$12/hour

**To apply**

Send a resume, contact information for two references, and a paragraph explaining your interest in and qualifications for the position. Submit applications to Dr. Elsa Youngsteadt at [ekyoungs@ncsu.edu](mailto:ekyoungs@ncsu.edu) with subject line **“bee digitization assistant.”** Applications will be reviewed beginning October 13, 2022 and the position will remain open until filled.