



Post: Taxonomic Assistant
Department: Tropical Diversity
Division: Science

Job Description

Key Responsibilities

- Work with field team in Peru composed of several researchers, PhD students, and technical staff to collect plant specimens from the Peruvian Andes
- Co-ordinate specimen identification
- Run training course in Peru on databasing and digitising herbarium specimens
- Co-ordinate the production of a taxonomic checklist for the río Marañón watershed, including building, managing and curating a research database
- Manage specimen export and curation
- Write identification keys and new species descriptions

Specific Responsibilities

- Participate in field work in Peru
- Coordinate the production of a taxonomic checklist for the Marañón watershed by delegating activities and collating data from collaborators
- Building, managing, and curating a research database for the Marañón watershed
- Identify herbarium specimens from the field
- Describe new species arising from the project
- Produce identification keys for specific plant genera/families for the Marañón watershed, Peru
- Design and run training courses in Peru on databasing and digitising herbarium specimen
- Manage specimen export from Peru to the UK and to curate incoming specimens in Edinburgh



Person Specification

Skills/Aptitude	Essential	Desirable
Experience in collecting herbarium specimens during tropical fieldwork	*	
Good verbal and written language skills	*	
Spanish language skills		*
Experience in co-ordinating projects	*	
Experience in dealing with multidisciplinary groups across countries and cultures	*	
Ability to work in the field for long periods of time	*	
Experience in managing herbarium specimen databases	*	
Herbarium specimen digitising		*

Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge of plant taxonomy	*	
Knowledge of tropical Andean flora		*
Plant identification	*	
Knowledge of specimen database software		*

Professional Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
BSc or MSc in plant sciences, plant taxonomy or biodiversity		*



Royal
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Edinburgh

Our Values:

We are **Inclusive**: We recognise, reward and celebrate each other's unique contribution and treat everyone with dignity and respect

We value **Pride**: We have a strong sense of belonging and demonstrate this through what we say and what we do

We have **Purpose**: We are clear on the long and short term priorities of RBGE and align our contribution, responses and actions to these

We are **Communicative**: We are open, respectful, consultative, creating an environment of transparency and trust

We are **Collaborative**: We respect expertise and actively seek opportunities to improve how we work together

We are **Customer-focused**: We understand the needs of our customers and colleagues, and meet and exceed their expectations

We celebrate and value **Curiosity**: We are inquisitive and engaged with the world around us, constantly exploring, expanding our expertise and sharing our knowledge