



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

School of Botany  
Faculty of Science

### Plant Systematics Research Fellow

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0030755
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Level A
<b>SALARY</b>	\$59,646 – \$80,939 per annum
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 9%
<b>EMPLOYMENT TYPE</b>	Full Time (Fixed-Term) position available for 3 years Fixed term contract type: External Funding
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers/benefits">www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers/benefits</a>
<b>CURRENT OCCUPANT</b>	New
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Online applications are preferred. Go to <a href="http://www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au">www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au</a> and use the Job Search screen to find the position by title or number.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Professor Ian Woodrow Tel +61 3 8344 5067 Email <a href="mailto:i.woodrow@unimelb.edu.au">i.woodrow@unimelb.edu.au</a>  Professor David Cantrill Tel +61 3 9252 2301 Email <a href="mailto:david.cantrill@rbg.vic.gov.au">david.cantrill@rbg.vic.gov.au</a>  <i>Please do not send your application to these contacts</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our websites:

[www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers)  
[www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working-at-melb](http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working-at-melb)

## ***Position Summary***

The School of Botany, The University of Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBG) have an established, successful collaboration, reputations for excellence in plant systematics research, and modern infrastructure. Through their respective Foundations, the School of Botany and RBG have an established endowment to provide salary for a joint research position: the 'Pauline Ladiges Plant Systematics Research Fellowship'.

The fellow will conduct research in the field of plant systematics and Australasian flora. The position requires the researcher to work at and collaborate with researchers at both institutions.

The Research Fellow will contribute to the institutions' joint research program, and develop a specific research project deploying modern methods, including molecular techniques. The researcher will contribute to writing scientific papers, presentations for meetings and training of students.

### ***1. Selection Criteria***

#### **1.1 ESSENTIAL**

- ▶ A Ph.D. in systematic / evolutionary biology
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to identify important research questions
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to plan and conduct high quality research
- ▶ Proven skills in molecular and quantitative research methods relevant to phylogenetic systematics
- ▶ Proven ability to undertake productively scientific projects and collaborations, and supervise postgraduate students
- ▶ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ▶ Ability to deliver oral presentations and prepare written scientific publications
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work both autonomously and in a team environment

#### **1.2 DESIRABLE**

- ▶ Taxonomic knowledge of Australian flora
- ▶ Track record of publishing high quality papers in peer-reviewed journals
- ▶ Ability to liaise successfully with collaborating research partners in academia and government
- ▶ A good working knowledge of herbarium methods

### ***2. Special Requirements***

- ▶ The researcher must spend time on a regular basis working at both the University of Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (South Yarra)
- ▶ A current, valid Victorian driver's licence is required for field work
- ▶ Field work will be required, possibly some in remote locations

### **3. Key Responsibilities**

- ▶ Design and implement a sound research project in an area of plant systematics, to the standard accepted in the scientific community
- ▶ Conduct field work relevant to the research project
- ▶ Contribute to knowledge through research scholarship, publications in international peer-reviewed journals, and presentations at conferences
- ▶ Ensure the research linkage between the School of Botany, The University of Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) is successful by delivering research outcomes to agreed time-lines, establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with staff and spending regular time at both institutions
- ▶ Seek sources of external funding and prepare grant applications for relevant research projects
- ▶ Develop and maintain a budget required for conducting the proposed research
- ▶ Assist in some teaching and/or supervising honours and/or post graduate students
- ▶ Contribute to the intellectual life of the School of Botany and the RBG through attendance at meetings and seminars.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5.

### **4. Other Information**

#### **4.1 SCHOOL OF BOTANY**

The School of Botany is a School of the Faculty of Science. The mission of the School is to advance knowledge of plants for the benefit of society, the environment and industry, and to train the next generation of plant scientists.

There are several major research groups in the School of Botany in the areas of ecology, conservation biology and environmental science, plant physiology, plant cell and molecular biology (including functional genomics), and evolutionary biology (including systematics and marine botany). The School includes nodes of a number of research centres: the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA), the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED); the Plant Cell Biology Research Centre; the ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Cell Walls; the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics. The School has strong links with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and houses the RBG's Australian Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE).

The School is housed in the Botany and Natural Philosophy buildings on the University of Melbourne Parkville campus. There are 13 academic staff (in addition to 43 research staff), 14 general staff and more than 40 postgraduate students. The School has excellent fully equipped research laboratories, and major facilities that include glasshouses, a herbarium (MELU), a microscopy unit and mass spectrometry facilities.

Information on the School of Botany can be found at  
<http://www.botany.unimelb.edu.au/botany/>

#### **4.2 ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBGM) was established in 1846 and covers more than 36 hectares. Today, the Garden has more than 52,000 individual plants,

representing over 10,000 different species, in 19 Collections. Established in 1970, the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (RBGC) is dedicated to the conservation, display and enjoyment of Australian flora and covers 363 hectares; it is within an hour's drive of Melbourne. Two thirds of the site is remnant vegetation of state and regional significance, and is home to a number of endangered, vulnerable and 'at risk' species of fauna and flora. The new Australian Garden at RBGC provides a contemporary landscape display of Australia's plants and landscapes.

Both the Melbourne and Cranbourne sites are managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Board, under the Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991.

The Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division (PS&B) is responsible for the control and management of the State Botanical Collection (the preserved plant collections of the National Herbarium of Victoria, MEL, and the Library collections), undertaking research programs and special projects, the provision of a plant identification and taxonomic enquiry service, and for the provision of authoritative scientific advice. The Herbarium is part of an international network of Herbaria, participating in collaborative projects nationally and internationally.

#### 4.3 BUDGET DIVISION

The Faculty of Science was formally constituted in 1903, although science has been taught since 1854 when the first Professors of mathematics and natural science joined the University. It is one of the University's largest faculties with some 7,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and has an annual budget in the order of \$120m.

The Faculty of Science has a deserved reputation for the delivery of high quality teaching and research programs across a breadth of disciplines. The subjects and courses offered are integral to the quality of a significant number of the educational programs in other faculties. The Faculty has a long-standing and distinguished record of providing postgraduate education at the Masters and Doctoral levels and it has established strong international research and research education linkages within the USA, Europe and throughout the Asian region.

The Faculty is made up of four Schools and four Departments as follows: Schools of Botany, Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Physics; and the Departments of Genetics, Mathematics and Statistics, Optometry and Vision Sciences and Zoology. The Faculty also is responsible for the Bio21 Molecular Science & Biotechnology Research Institute.

The Faculty, through its Departments and Research Centres, is active in professional development, continuing education nationally and internationally, and in links to schools and the community.

Information on the Faculty of Science can be found at

<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au/departments>

#### 4.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. With outstanding performance in international rankings, Melbourne is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the world's top universities. Further information about our reputation and global ranking is available at [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/about/reputation-rankings](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/about/reputation-rankings)

Established in 1853, shortly after the founding of Melbourne, the University is located just a few minutes from the centre of this global city. The main Parkville campus is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide range of knowledge-based industries.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at [www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers).

#### 4.5 GROWING ESTEEM AND THE MELBOURNE MODEL

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. [www.growingesteem.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.growingesteem.unimelb.edu.au)

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Model. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

#### 4.6 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Another key priority for the University is access and equity. The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to an admissions policy that takes the best students, regardless of financial and other disadvantage. An Access, Equity and Diversity Policy Statement, included in the University Plan, reflects this priority.

The University is committed to equal opportunity in education, employment and welfare for staff and students. Students are selected on merit and staff are selected and promoted on merit.

#### 4.7 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at [www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au).

### 5. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.