

**Research Assistant: Biodiversity of Marine Ciliates**  
**Biological Sciences**  
**Smith College**

Smith College seeks a Research Assistant: biodiversity of Marine Ciliates to use molecular tools to explore biodiversity of eukaryotic microorganisms, particularly ciliates, in marine environments and to maintain data in a well-organized database, with attention paid to details of completeness and quality, while also supporting general lab functions. This research project focuses on characterization of near-shore communities of oligotrich and choreotrich ciliates using DGGE and next generation sequencing technologies. This is a grant-funded, limited-term position with the possibility of renewal.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Characterize samples through PCR, clone library and/or DGGE, analyze NGS data.

Maintain up-to-date database of DNA sequences (quality and quantity). Integrate with sequences available from GenBank. Submit sequences to GenBank.

Laboratory management: oversee maintenance of stock solutions, supply ordering, etc.; Administration: maintain budget of grant by tracking costs of supplies and equipment.

\* The nature of responsibilities is subject to change as the research progresses.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education/Experience:** Bachelor's degree plus one-year lab and informatics experience.

**Skills:** Must be highly motivated to collect and catalog DNA sequence data, and to perform bioinformatics tasks. Basic understanding of the nature of microbial diversity also essential. Experience with basic molecular skills, including DNA extraction, PCR, cloning and sequencing; knowledge of NGS sequencing, biopython, ClustalW, RaxML, and other informatics tools designed to manipulate DNA sequence data; and experience maintaining databases. Also need basic microscopy skills to maintain ciliate cultures.

Review of application will begin immediately. To be considered for this position, apply on-line at <http://smithcollege.hiretouch.com>

**Smith College is an EO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer**