

Job title	Post Doctoral Researcher Unravelling early human migration in southern South America using Darwin's Fuegian lice
Division	ASUC
Department	Oxford University Museum of Natural History
Location	Parks road, Oxford, OX1 3PW
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £30,738-£37,768 (discretionary £38,896 - £41,225) per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (18 months)
Reporting to	Darren Mann (Head of Life Collections)
Vacancy reference	122930

Research topic	Unravelling early human migration in southern South America using Darwin's Fuegian lice
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Dr Alejandra Perotti
Project team	Dr Alejandra Perotti, Mr Darren Mann, Dr Henk Ronald Braig
Project web site	http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=BB/N002067/1

Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by BBSRC.
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The role

Unravelling early human migration in southern South America using Darwin's Fuegian lice

For a BBSRC-funded collaborative research project between the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the University of Reading and Bangor University, on the evolution of human lice and early human migration in South America, a post-doctoral researcher is sought to work on the curation and systematics of lice forming the 'Denny Collection' at the Museum of Natural History.

Further details <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=BB/N002067/1>

The Henry Denny 'Anoplura' collection contains ~3,000 lice in 600 'lots'. Many of these were collected by Charles Darwin, Alfred Wallace and other contemporary entomologists. The collection has remained untouched since its arrival in the Museum (1871), and only the unpublished archival catalogues by J.O. Westwood exist on its contents and value. The PDR is to digitize the specimens and data, research and digitise the archives, re-curate specimens, identify & image each species, with the final aim of making the collection available on-line to the public and scientific community.

Responsibilities

Specific Duties

The post holder will assist the PI at Oxford University Museum of Natural History by researching and re-curating the Denny's 'Anoplura' collection.

- Re-curating the Denny Collection,
- Specimen level cataloguing of the collection using the Museum Collections Management System (KE-Emu),
- Researching, collating and digitizing the archival records of the collection (e.g. Westwood's 1871 catalogue),
- Provide taxonomic descriptions of species new to science and re-description of other species as required for publication,
- Dissemination of research results through publication, conferences and other media,
- Help with the content and delivery of a travelling exhibition about the Denny Collection and the Project

The PDR will be responsible for all the systematic work and all duties related to restoring the collection and making it accessible to the scientific community. The PDR will work in synchrony with the collaborating institutions, particularly assessing the biogeographical movement of lice species and their hosts in the past and present.

General Duties

- Acquiring and maintaining a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of the scientific literature as pertaining to the research goals of the lab,
- Assisting in the design and implementation of the research project as directed by the Oxford and Reading supervisors,
- Collecting data and maintaining data records (including ensuring data security and backup), and sharing results with the PI's
- Preparing results of catalogues and descriptions on new species for publication in scientific journals, and assisting in the completion of other aspects related to the publication of research findings as requested by the supervisors,
- Participating in research project meetings and discussions,
- Helping to maintain the day-to-day work of the lab,
- Writing publications and progress reports together with the supervisor,
- Assist with the museum's programmes for public engagement in science and citizen science,
- Assist with the development of displays and interpretation within the museum and its external exhibitions,
- To carry out additional duties related to the group's research as may from time to time be required by the supervisors.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A PhD,
- Research specialization in systematics,
- Knowledge and understanding of invertebrate taxonomy
- A research and publication record commensurate with career stage,
- A strong ability to communicate to groups of non-specialists and an enthusiasm for science communication and public engagement in science.

Desirable

- Research experience in alpha taxonomy,
- Insect specimen preparation techniques i.e. microscope slides,
- Knowledge of the taxonomy and systematics of Phthiraptera,
- Experience of working in museum collections,
- To have an interest in, and understanding of natural history museums.

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2014/15 exceeded £522.9m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

ASUC Division & Oxford University Museum Board

The Academic Services and University Collections (ASUC) Group, under the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research ASUC) is responsible, in conjunction with their respective governance committees, for the Bodleian Libraries, the Language Centre, and the University's museums and Botanic Garden. ASUC exists to represent these and to coordinate related budgets, policy and strategy, in support of the University's academic, research and teaching activities, and its heritage and legal responsibilities.

For more information please visit: <http://www.division.ox.ac.uk/>

Activity across the museums is also coordinated by the University Museums Board, which comprises the directors and the chairs of the Boards of Visitors for each museums, together with senior University officers and external representatives

University Museum of Natural History

Oxford University Museum of Natural History was opened in 1860 and houses the University's extensive scientific holdings of natural history, which are used for research, teaching, and public engagement in science. The holdings are organised into three collection areas: Earth, Life and Archives & Library. The Museum is 'Designated' by Arts Council England as having pre-eminent collections of national and international importance, and these comprise around 7 million specimens that are second in importance only to the national collections. The building, which is Grade 1 listed, is regarded as one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in Britain, with its glass roof supported by iron pillars, and internal decoration that has a strong association with the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Earth Collections. There are in excess of 350,000 fossil specimens in the museum, including over 4,700 type and figured specimens. Of particular importance are the Lower Palaeozoic invertebrates, the Jurassic vertebrates (including dinosaurs and marine reptiles) and Lyell's Tertiary molluscs. The collections also include around 33,000 minerals, meteorites and gemstones, and 100,000 petrological specimens of world-wide provenance.

Life Collections. Five million entomological specimens, with 30,000 catalogued types, constitute a globally leading entomology collection. They include major historic British collections, and foreign collections covering most orders, but are particularly strong in Old World butterflies, cockroaches and bees. There is also the important Pickard-Cambridge spider collection. The other zoology collections contain an estimated 300,000 specimens, including over 1,000 type and figured specimens. Most important are the worldwide collections of mammals, birds, and crustaceans, and internationally significant collections of other marine invertebrates. The Life Collections include historically and scientifically important material collected by the Tradescants,

Darwin, Wallace and Livingstone. Only a small part of the collections is on public display in the Museum Court, and the majority of specimens are held in a variety of onsite and offsite stores.

Archives & Library. The archives contain internationally important material relating to the development of natural history, particularly geology and entomology, from the Enlightenment through the 19th century and into the 20th.

Current research within the museum includes the Cambrian explosion and the evolutionary significance of Palaeozoic Lagerstätten (Allison Daley, David Legg, Derek Siveter, Paul Smith), insect taxonomy and ecosystem services (Darren Mann), crustacean taxonomy and systematics (Sammy De Grave; Sancia van der Meij), metamorphic petrology and thermobarometry (David Waters), early echinoderm evolution (Imran Rahman), plesiosaur morphology (James Neenan), and environmental archaeology (Mark Robinson).

Related collections-based research is also undertaken in the nearby Department of Earth Sciences (www.earth.ox.ac.uk), the Department of Zoology (www.zoo.ox.ac.uk) and the School of Archaeology (www.arch.ox.ac.uk).

For more information please visit: <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk> Job description

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

If you would like to apply, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about the university/jobs/support/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/). To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at:

www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for all academic and academic-related posts (grade 6 and above), for which the retirement date is the 30 September immediately preceding the 68th birthday. The justification for this is explained at:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revaim/.

For **existing** employees any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revproc/

There is no normal or fixed age at which **support staff** in posts at **grades 1–5** have to retire. Support staff may retire once they reach the minimum pension age stipulated in the Rules of the pension scheme to which they belong.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Training and Development

A range of training and development opportunities are available at the University. Further details can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/staff/working_at_oxford/training_development/index.html.

For research staff only: Support for Research Staff

There is a particularly wide range of support for career development for research staff. Please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers to find out more.

Pensions

The University offers generous occupational pension schemes for eligible staff members. Further details can be found at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/pensionspolicy/.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)

A wealth of information is available on the University's International Staff website for staff who are relocating to Oxford from abroad, at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/international/.

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The Newcomers' Club is aimed at helping partners of newly-arrived visiting scholars, graduate students and academic members of the University to settle in and to meet people in Oxford.

Transport schemes

The University offers a range of travel schemes and public transport travel discounts to staff. Full details are available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/travel/.

University Club and University Sports Facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a Club bar, a cafe and sporting facilities, including a gym. See www.club.ox.ac.uk for all further details.

University staff can use the University Sports Centre at discounted rates, and have the chance to join sports clubs. Please visit www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Childcare and Childcare Vouchers

The University offers quality childcare provision services at affordable prices to its employees. For full details about the services offered, please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/. **NB: Due to the high demand for the University's nursery places there is a long waiting list.**

The University also offers nursery fee payment schemes to eligible staff as an opportunity to save tax and national insurance on childcare costs. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Disabled staff

The University is committed to supporting members of staff with a disability or long-term health condition and has a dedicated Staff Disability Advisor. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details.

BUPA - Eduhealth

Bupa Eduhealth Essentials private medical insurance offers special rates for University of Oxford staff and their families www.eduhealth.co.uk/mini-site/.

All other benefits

For other benefits, such as free entry to colleges, the Botanic Gardens and staff discounts offered by third party companies, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/.