



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Achieving International Excellence

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (REF: 3092)
SCHOOL OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Ecophysiology of Eucalypt Decline Phenomena

- 3 year appointment with further appointment subject to funding
- Salary range: Level A \$53,542 - \$72,537 p.a. - minimum starting salary for appointee with PhD will be \$70,058 p.a.
- Plus 17% superannuation
- Closing date: Friday, 16 April 2010

This postdoctoral appointment is offered as part of a state-funded Centre of Excellence for Climate Change and Woodland and Forest Health project. Applicants must have a PhD in a relevant field of plant biology, preferably plant water relations.

The southwest of Western Australia has experienced a significant decrease in rainfall over the past three decades, a trend that is predicted to continue. At the same time, several of the eucalypt species of the woodlands and forests in this region have started to show health problems. The Research Associate that we seek to employ will contribute to the aims of the Centre of Excellence by investigating if climate-induced environmental stress is implicated in the eucalypt decline phenomena and by studying possible links between environmental stress and the incidence of pest and disease. This research will target a number of eucalypt species and include monitoring as well as experimental approaches. There will be close collaboration with other researchers in the Centre, including psychopathologists, ecologists, modellers and social scientists, at The University of Western Australia, Murdoch University and other associated institutions. Some assistance with relocation expenses (if applicable) may be negotiated.

For further information regarding the position, or to obtain a copy of the Centre's Research Strategy, please contact Dr Erik Veneklaas on +61 8 6488 3584 or email evenekla@plants.uwa.edu.au

APPLICATION DETAILS: The position description follows. Written applications quoting the reference number, personal contact details, qualifications and experience, along with contact details of three referees should be sent to Director, Human Resources, The University of Western Australia, M350, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009 or emailed to jobs@uwa.edu.au by the closing date.

Committed to a workplace culture of respect

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION IDENTIFICATION

Faculty:	Natural and Agricultural Sciences
School/Admin Dept:	School of Plant Biology
Centre:	
Section:	
Position Number:	309261
Position Title:	Research Associate
Position Classification:	HEE Level A
Supervisor Title:	Professor
Supervisor Position Number:	302562

ROLE STATEMENT

The appointee is expected to work within the State Centre of Excellence on Climate Change and Woodland and Forest Health, and conduct research into various ecophysiological aspects of the declining health of major eucalypt species in the south-west of Western Australia. Appointment at this level requires a PhD and an interest and willingness to collaborate with other researchers in the same and other disciplines.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Carry out research in line with the Program 2 aims of the Centre of Excellence.
- Quantify key parameters of plant water relations and hydraulic architecture for a number of major eucalypt species.
- Collaborate with an ecological modeller to develop models that simulate the response of trees and tree-dominated communities to changes in climate.
- Monitor plant water relations and plant nutritional status of healthy and unhealthy trees in long-term research sites.
- Develop and perform experiments, in collaboration with plant pathologists and entomologists, investigating relationships between drought stress and susceptibility to pests and diseases.
- Manage regular communication with all collaborators and participate in Centre meetings and outreach activities.
- Co-supervise postgraduate and undergraduate research students.
- Other duties as directed.

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SPECIFIC WORK CAPABILITIES (SELECTION CRITERIA): (Minimum requirements to perform the duties of the position, e.g. PhD).

PhD or equivalent in a field relevant to plant biology, preferably plant water relations.

Demonstrated skills in experimental techniques in plant biology.

Strong background in plant ecophysiology.

Demonstrated skills in statistics.

Demonstrated excellence in written and verbal communication of research findings.

Demonstrable ability for creative and thorough research.

Demonstrable capacity for experimental research in plant science.

Skills in experimental design and statistical analysis of data.

Highly developed ability to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other scientists and team members.

Ability to work in field situations.

Well-developed understanding of safety procedures required under field and laboratory conditions.

Experience in plant physiological experiments, preferably under both field and laboratory conditions.

Keen interest in abiotic and biotic factors affecting plants, both above- and below-ground.

Valid driver's license

Positions directly supervised: 0

Number of positions for which responsible: 0

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

PRIVACY AUTHORISATION

I _____ hereby authorise The University of Western Australia to contact the referees nominated by me below for the purpose of confirming my employment history, work skills and abilities and other information to assist in the assessment of my application for employment.

Signed

Date

Nominated Referees

Referee Name: _____
Position: _____
Company: _____
Telephone No: _____
Email Address: _____

Referee Name: _____
Position: _____
Company: _____
Telephone No: _____
Email Address: _____

Referee Name: _____
Position: _____
Company: _____
Telephone No: _____
Email Address: _____

The University of Western Australia will treat all information obtained in a strictly confidential manner and will not release any information to any other party unless authorisation to do so has been obtained from the applicant.

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT THE VACANT POSITION?

Please indicate how you heard about the position (tick one)

Source	Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth from UWA staff	13
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional network (<i>please specify</i>)	14
<input type="checkbox"/> Web – jobs.uwa.edu.au	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Web – seek.com.au	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Web – UniJobs.com.au	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Web – professional careers site (<i>please specify</i>)	16
<input type="checkbox"/> Web – other Please specify	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – West Australian Newspaper	01
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – A WA Community Newspaper	17
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – Other WA newspaper/newsletter (<i>please specify</i>)	09
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – The Australian Newspaper	02
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – Other national newspaper (<i>please specify</i>)	08
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – International newspaper (<i>please specify</i>)	07
<input type="checkbox"/> Print – Journal (<i>please specify</i>)	18
<input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment Agency (<i>please specify</i>)	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify	19