

Undergrad research position available in plant evolutionary ecology.

An opportunity is available to join the Samis lab in plant evolutionary ecology research on coastal dune or salt marsh plants. I am interested in asking what the ecological (e.g. climate, habitat), evolutionary (e.g. gene flow, selection) and genetic (genetic variation) factors are that determine where species do and do not occur. Plants growing in these environments offer a great opportunity to ask these questions because they are restricted to a spatially narrow, but ecologically variable distribution where a variety of these factors may be important.

Potential projects involve:

- a survey of local plants & their distributions,
- measuring potentially adaptive variation (e.g. dispersal traits, phenology, morphology) across ecological and geographic gradients,
- the reproductive and genetic effects of interspecific hybridization between rare and common species, and
- photoperiod & cold temperature effects on northern range limits.

Each of these projects may involve a combination of experimental and observational studies, field collections & surveys, greenhouse work, molecular markers, and/or microscopy.

If you are interested in working in my lab and/or working on or towards an undergraduate research project or honours thesis in any of these areas please contact Dr. Karen Samis for more information. Position(s) may be available to start in July, 2009 or later.

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