

ARTHROPOD ENTHUSIASTS FOR FIELD STUDY NEEDED!



Cyprus Wildlife Research Institute was established in 2018 as an umbrella organization focusing on the protection of the well-being of nature and wildlife of Cyprus, and the wider Levantine Basin. Research conducted under CWRI helps to fill the data gaps on the biodiversity of the Cypriot region, constituting a paramount activity of nature conservation. Apart from improving the level of **knowledge of local rare, cryptic, and endemic species**, it enables effective **monitoring of habitats** at the landscape level, and the development of conservation strategies ensuring sustainable ecosystems.

Arthropods, and its largest and most varied group, Insects, are amongst the most successful and diverse groups of animals on Earth. Despite being both highly abundant and integral for the functioning of most ecosystems, our knowledge, and understanding of Arthropods, are still largely limited and ignored in most parts of the world. In this sense, field studies are the most fundamental and essential ways to improve the state of knowledge of Arthropods, and fill the gaps regarding Arthropod's general biology, ecology, and increasingly important conservation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our Institute now offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to join our expert arachnologist on field studies to collect valuable scientific data on local terrestrial arthropods from different habitats across Northern Cyprus. As a volunteer, you will get a chance to:

- Attend zoological lessons to develop theoretical knowledge on biology, evolution, taxonomy, and interrelationships of arthropods
- Learn and practice sampling methods applied in diverse natural and artificial habitats
- Practice the identification of arthropod taxa in the field and in the laboratory
- Separate, dissect, analyze and preserve collected samples in a laboratory
- Analyze the data and write short reports summarizing your findings
- Learn about experimental research design
- Find out about the future research opportunities and possibilities of collaboration with CWRI
- Contribute to the knowledge of the biodiversity of Cyprus

Additionally, volunteers from this program are responsible for taking care of and ensuring good welfare conditions for the animals within CWRI's terrariums and insectariums.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Our Volunteers are housed in bungalows, located within **Taşkent Nature Park**, which is situated in Kyrenia district in **Northern Cyprus**. As a volunteer, you will be provided the accommodation and kitchen facilities, all within the walking distance of the main campus of Cyprus Wildlife Research Institute. After applying to the program, our coordinator will help you with the travel arrangements and will discuss the possibility of airport transfer organized by CWRI. Please apply to receive further details.

TRAINING DURING THE PROJECT

As a volunteer applying to this program, you will attend weekly zoological lessons led by our expert arachnologist, to develop your knowledge of Arthropod biology, zoogeography, evolution, ecology, and taxonomy. You will be guided to learn and practice how to set up traps for Arthropods collection, how to properly dissect and preserve collected specimens and how to operate a stereoscopic microscope. Previous knowledge of arthropod taxonomy is not considered a prerequisite for being accepted to the program. Our programs are designed to cover both theoretical knowledge and practical field skills to ensure the most valuable work experience for all young arthropod enthusiasts!

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum duration of stay: 1 month
- Advanced level of English language
- Basic outdoor training
- No medical conditions or disabilities that prevent working in difficult field conditions
- No allergies to arthropod bites and stings
- Not being afraid of enclosed and/or tight-fitting space (Claustrophobia), the dark (Nyctophobia) and arthropods (Arachnophobia)
- Driver's licence

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Learn about the biology, diversity and evolution of phylum Arthropoda
- Explore and learn about the relevance of Arthropods in the fields of ecology, biomedicine and biomaterials
- Learn to identify arthropod taxa in the field and in the laboratory
- Master the correct application of sampling methods in different habitats (f.ex. arid, semi-arid, pine forests, caves, etc.)
- Get familiar with the lab environment, a necessary component of many life science disciplines
- Develop and deepen your stereomicroscopy skills
- Learn the method of scorpion venom milking
- Gain valuable work experience to prepare you for a career in entomology, arachnology conservation

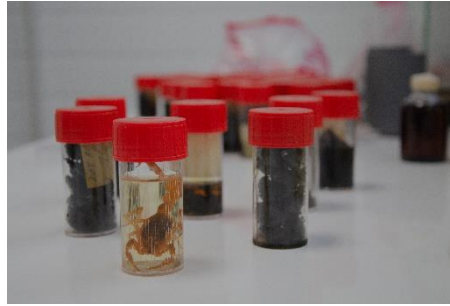
COST

This is a non-paid volunteer position. Our volunteers are asked to pay **20 €/day** to cover the accommodation, two meals a day, and associated living costs (such as power, water, internet, the use of kitchen, essential food supplies, laundry room) of their stay. Volunteers are invited to join the field trips, organized by CWRI on their day off, free of charge. Fees for this position can be covered by **ERASMUS+** scholarship.

HOW TO APPLY

To submit your application please visit: <https://v.cwri.net/projects/36> . Our team will contact shortly you and share all the necessary information to arrange your stay.

Please contact us at info@cwri.net if you have any questions or trouble with the application system.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN CYPRUS!