

February 3, 2006

## ANT COURSE 2006: Asian and Australian ants

August 9- 19, School of Tropical Biology,  
Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Deadline for application: April 1, 2006

<http://www.antweb.org>



**COURSE OBJECTIVES.** - ANT COURSE is designed for systematists, ecologists, behaviorists, conservation biologists, and other biologists whose research responsibilities require a greater understanding of ant taxonomy. Emphasis in 2006 is on the **Asian and Australian ant fauna**. Lectures will include background information on the ecology, life histories and evolution of ants. Field trips are structured to teach collecting and sampling techniques, and associated lab work provides instruction on specimen preparation, sorting and labeling. Information on equipment/supply vendors, literature, and myrmecological contacts are also presented.

**COURSE SIGNIFICANCE.** - Ant Course is a unique opportunity to acquire training that is unavailable elsewhere. This course will provide students with: 1) the confidence and skills to identify the major ant genera of Australia, 2) an understanding of modern specimen processing and curation techniques, 3) an appreciation for the biological diversity of ants, and 4) experience keying to the species level.

**SPONSORS.** -California Academy of Sciences and School of Tropical Biology, Cairns, with partial funding from The E.O. Wilson Foundation.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION.** - ANT COURSE will be taught from August 9-19, 2006 at the James Cook University, School of Tropical Biology, Cairns, Australia ([http://www.jcu.edu.au/visitor/the\\_uni/campus/locations/JCUCairns.html](http://www.jcu.edu.au/visitor/the_uni/campus/locations/JCUCairns.html)). This new state-of-the-art teaching and research facility is surrounded on three sides by rainforest-covered mountains (see photo of campus) and is centered amid the richest ant fauna in Australia.- Ant Course is taught each year in August, returning to Arizona in 2007.



PARTICIPANT ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA. - ANT COURSE is open to all interested individuals: students, faculty, and professionals. Priority will be given to those biologists for whom the course will have a significant impact on their research with ants. An entomological background is not required. We aim to include students with a diverse interest in biology, including ant systematics, ecology, behavioral biology and conservation. The high instructor to student ratio will allow students to receive individual attention. ANT COURSE is presented in English and limited to 30 participants

COSTS. - Tuition for the 10-day COURSE is US\$475 for current students and US\$675 for non-students. In addition, JCU fees for this period, covering dormitory room and board, are estimated at US\$275. Transportation costs between home and Cairns are to be borne by all participants.

FELLOWSHIPS. - Four fellowships are available for 2006. Two fellowships cover tuition fees and two fellowships cover station fees. Students from Asia may apply for additional fellowships to assist in travel. Those interested in attending the course should seek all possible avenues to secure funding for the course. You should only apply for the Ant Course fellowship if you can not find other support and it is essential for your participation in the course. Beware that if you apply for an ant course fellowship it implies that fellowship funding is essential to your participation in the course. Thus, if you are not selected for a fellowship, you might not be accepted into the course. Please notify the course if your funding request status changes before the application due date.

#### INVITED INSTRUCTORS.

Brian Fisher (Coordinator), Lianne Alonso, Alan Andersen, Jack Longino, Mike Kaspari, Jonathan Majer, Steve Shattuck, Roy Snelling, Andy Suarez, Walter Tschinkel, Phil Ward,

Special Guests: Rudy Kohout, Bob Taylor

## ANT COURSE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: April 1, 2006

A complete application must include: 1) this form 2) your curriculum vitae; 3) a letter which describes interests and future plans together with a statement of your reasons for wishing to participate in the course (see #12 below); and 4) one letter of reference from a professor or colleague familiar with your work (see #13 below).

You can cut and paste this application into a MS Word document.

1. Name (include middle initial for use in collector label; write clearly, what I see will be what you get for a collector label):

2. Sex: Male [  ] Female [  ] (check one).

3. Institutional address:

4. Phone number:

5. E-mail address:

6. Current position:

7. Highest university degree, year granted and institution:

8. Brief statement of current ant research activities (one sentence).

9. Name and email address of person submitting letter of support:

10. Emergency contact information during course: Name, address, phone number.

11. Do you want to sign up for Veggie meals at the field station? Yes [  ]; no [  ] (check one).

12. On a separate sheet, please describe your reason(s) for wishing to take course. As this statement will be used to evaluate your suitability as a Course participant, be sure to respond thoughtfully and in some detail. Note: The most important criteria for selecting students is your explanation as to how the course will impact your current and future research activities with ants.

13. Please ask someone who knows you and your interest in the course to send a letter via email in support of your application to: [bfisher@calacademy.org](mailto:bfisher@calacademy.org) and include the subject heading: Ant Course letter of support.

Name and address of person whom you have asked to send letter of reference:

14. Did you apply for Ant Course last year? Yes [  ]; no [  ] (check one).

15. Do you have institutional support? Yes [  ]; no [  ] (check one).

16. Fellowships. Two fellowships cover tuition fees and two fellowships cover station fees. If you wish to apply for a fellowship, please have the person writing your letter of recommendation indicate why you need to apply for the fellowship. Remember, those interested in attending the course should seek all possible avenues to secure funding for the course. Ant Course selection committee looks favorably on those who have received outside or institutional funding to attend the course. You should only apply for the Ant Course fellowship if you can not find other support and it is essential for your participation in the course. Beware that if you apply for an ant course fellowship it implies that fellowship funding is essential to your participation in the course. Thus, if you are not selected for a fellowship, you might not be accepted into the course. Please notify the course if your funding request status changes before the application due date.

Are you applying for a fellowship? Yes [  ]; no [  ] (check one).

17. PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION via email to: [bfisher@calacademy.org](mailto:bfisher@calacademy.org). Please put "Ant Course application" in the subject line of the email.

If you can not send it by email, then you can mail it to: ANT COURSE, Dept. of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103;

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: APRIL 1

You will be notified of your acceptance to the Course by APRIL 15.

ANT COURSE is limited to 30 participants. Selection of participants will be carried out by committee, based on your reasons for wishing to take the course at this time. Priority will be given to those biologists for whom the course will have a significant impact on their research with ants. Because the Course will be offered yearly, and because many well-qualified candidates cannot be accepted because of limited capacity, we urge applicants not selected for this session to apply again the following year.

*Revised February 3, 2006*