The Gile Lab in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University seeks a Postdoctoral Researcher to study the diversity and evolution of microbial eukaryotes from termite hindguts. The termite-protist digestion symbiosis began in an ancient ancestor of termites and has persisted over 175 million years to the present day. In that time, several lineages of protists have diversified and become large and morphologically complex. The overall evolutionary pattern of the symbiosis is of vertical inheritance punctuated by occasional lateral transfers of protists, with protists out-speciating their hosts by approximately 5:1. We are interested in evolutionary rates, speciation, morphological convergence, and instances of lateral transfer of symbionts among termite host species. Research duties may include, but are not limited to, field collection, metagenomic and community-wide amplicon sample preparation for sequencing, assembly and analysis of next-generation sequence data, phylogenetic analysis, and biochemical pathway analysis. Opportunities will be provided for conference travel and networking.

Applicants must have a PhD in biology, microbiology, ecology, or other relevant discipline, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and a strong publication record. Candidates with bioinformatics skills and expertise in microbial community analysis, phylogenetics, or population genetics are preferred. The fellowship duration will be three years, contingent on satisfactory performance (assessed yearly) and continued availability of funds. Interested applicants should provide a brief (one page) cover letter, CV, and three letters of support sent directly from referees. Send application materials to ggile@asu.edu.

Initial review of applications will begin on January 4, 2016. Applications will be reviewed every two weeks until the search is closed. Start date is flexible but ideally no later than June 30, 2016. A background check is required for employment. Arizona State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to excellence through diversity. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. For additional information on this position and the School of Life Sciences, please visit https://sols.asu.edu/resources/employment.