

November 29th, 2023

M.S. Positions at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Mays Maestas Vector-borne Disease Ecology Laboratory

The Mays Maestas Vector-borne Disease Ecology Laboratory at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is searching for candidates for the M.S. program with an interest in vector-borne disease ecology beginning in Fall 2024.

The focus of research in the Mays Maestas Lab is on the ecology of vector-borne disease, with a particular focus on tick- and flea-borne zoonoses. I am particularly interested in host – vector – pathogen interactions and ecological drivers of vector and pathogen presence and abundance. We combine field ecology and the application of molecular tools to improve understanding of the ecology of vector-borne zoonoses and for monitoring and surveillance of vector-borne pathogens.

Current projects include monitoring and surveillance of understudied native tick species and associated pathogens; and investigation of flea species presence, host ranges, and associated pathogens, with a particular focus on vectors of murine typhus.

Preference will be given to candidates with wildlife handling experience. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Sarah Mays Maestas (sarah.maestas@utrgv.edu) for more information. Please include a brief description of research interests and experience, along with a current C.V. or resume.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of south Texas. Positions will be located on the Edinburg, TX campus.