

The Department of Ecology and Evolution of the University of Salzburg, Austria is offering a 3 year PhD position within the project “**Functional responses of plant communities and plant-pollinator interactions to altitudinal gradients and climate change**” funded by the The Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

Project description

The project exploits the advantages of the altitudinal gradient of the Austrian Alps as well as historical vegetation surveys. Plant species present in communities located between 1500 and 2600 m a.s.l. will be phenotyped by a large set of vegetative but most importantly floral functional traits including the morphology, phenology, scent emission and color. Additionally, the phylogenetic composition of the communities as well as the flower-visitor interactions will be considered. This extensive and comprehensive dataset will allow testing hypotheses on community assembly, the link between functional plant diversity and flower visitor diversity, and the functional responses of plant communities and interaction patterns to altitude and climate change.

Your profile:

- Master / Diploma degree in Ecology, Biology, or a related field
- Interest in community ecology, plant-insect interactions, chemical ecology and experience with field ecological studies
- Advanced knowledge in statistical analysis is advantageous, most preferentially using the statistical software R
- Willingness to stay in the field for up to five month per year (field sites will be located along the Grossglockner Hochalpenstraße, Eberhard Stüber Forschungsstation)
- Proficiency in scientific English, both spoken and written
- A driving license and an own car are required
- Good communication and organization skills and the ability to work in a team
- Ability to join the project in May 2016

The minimum salary as stated in the collective agreement and according to the classification scheme (B1) is EUR 2.022,30 gross per month (14 times a year). It may increase on the basis of the provisions of the collective agreement by the crediting relevant prior experience.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to receive advanced training in statistics in the interdisciplinary graduate school “Statistics and Applied Data Sciences“ at the University of Salzburg. Applications should include a cover letter, CV, list of publications, a short statement of research interests, and names and contact-details of 2-3 references. Deadline for applications is **April 01, 2016**. Please submit applications electronically as a single pdf file to robert.junker@sbg.ac.at with the subject line “FWF_Grossglockner”.

Contact:

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