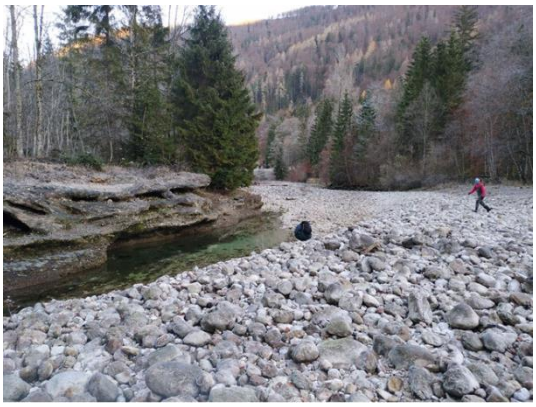
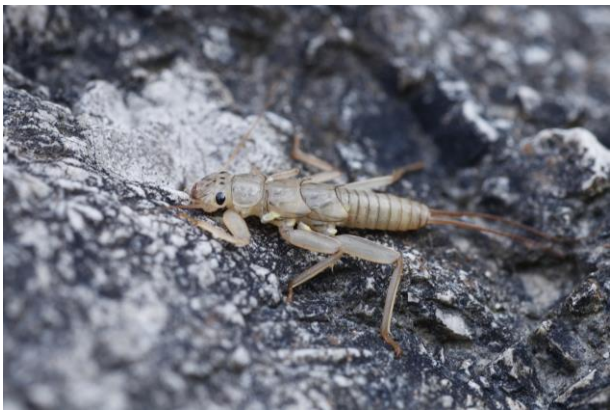
Master thesis

“Resilience in intermittent streams: Invertebrate recolonization as driver of stream ecosystem functioning”





In the project DRYvER (Securing biodiversity, functional integrity and ecosystem services in DRYing riVER networks), we investigate how drying in rivers (i.e. cessation of flow at some point in time or in space) can affect the biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in whole fluvial networks. Locally, drying leads to loss of aquatic species and functions. After the return of water flow, recolonization of formerly dry habitat is needed for re-establishment of communities and functions. In a field experiment, we want to investigate how various modes of recolonization by invertebrates (e.g. upstream migration, downstream drift or by air) influence other trophic levels like periphytic biofilms and therefore influence various ecosystem functions like primary production, ecosystem respiration or leaf litter decomposition.

In the context of this project, we look for a Master student holding a Bachelor degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, or a related field. Creative thinking and experience in lab or field experiments are appreciated. Knowledge of some statistics and R is a plus. The successful candidate will participate in field campaigns in the Velička River in the Czech Republic and will have the opportunity to collaborate within an international research project. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are required.

Interested? If so, please contact: **Dr. Rubén del Campo** (postdoctoral researcher at UIBK): **ruben.del-campo@uibk.ac.at**, or **Dr. Gabriel Singer** (Research group leader at UIBK): **gabriel.singer@uibk.ac.at**.

More info: https://www.dryver.eu/, https://www.uibk.ac.at/ecology/flee/