

PhD-student position on *Trophic Assessment of Ecosystem Services provided by Carabid Beetles in Arable Land*



Position available from 1st March 2018



Applied and Trophic Ecology Research Group, Institute of Ecology,
University of Innsbruck, Austria

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic scientist to join our research team on a three-year project investigating the trophic perspective of ecosystem services provided by carabid beetles in European arable land. Cutting edge molecular approaches will be used to quantify real world feeding interactions in combination with manipulative experiments to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms driving carabid weed seed and pest predation ecosystem services.

The PhD position will be part of the C-IPM project BioAware (<http://c-ipm.org/research/bioaware/>), jointly run between research groups based in France, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Austria.

This PhD project will have a strong focus on the development and application of molecular diagnostics such as metabarcoding and droplet digital PCR to assess granivorous and carnivorous trophic interactions as well as on feeding experiments to calibrate and further develop the methodology. Furthermore, the successful applicant will deal with field work in Austria, bioinformatics and statistical data analyses as well as the dissemination of the project findings. Co-supervision of master and bachelor students, who will be supporting the PhD and project work, is expected.

The three-year appointment comes with a yearly gross-salary of € 37,012.

The successful candidate holds a Master Degree (or equivalent) in ecology, zoology, agronomy or a similar field. Interest and/or skills are desired for the following topics: molecular & community ecology, applied ecology, entomology, planning & executing field work, statistical analyses and write-up of papers. The applicant should have the ability to work both independently and in a team, and to communicate well in written and spoken English. The PhD student will work in close cooperation with the other partner research teams. German speaking skills will be helpful for conducting the field work in Austria but are not mandatory.

Further information on the project and the research group can be found here:

Project: <http://c-ipm.org/research/bioaware/>

Applied and Trophic Ecology Research Group:

www.uibk.ac.at/ecology/forschung/biodiversitaet.html.en

Applications must be supported by the following documentation (all in one file):

- Cover letter stating the motivation for your application
- Curriculum vitae including copies of all university degrees received
- Letters of recommendation and previous supervisor contact details

Review of applications will begin on the 1st of February 2018 and will continue until the position is filled.

Please send your application and enquiries for further information to
asso. Prof. Dr. Michael Traugott (Michael.Traugott@uibk.ac.at)