

Call for PhD student for the project:

A bidirectional selection experiment to test the evolution of specialization and dispersal in the invasive wheat curl mite, *Aceria tosichella*

We seek a highly motivated student interested in evolutionary ecology to carry out a PhD project in the Population Ecology Lab, Faculty of Biology, A. Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, Poland, under the supervision of Dr. hab. Anna Skoracka. The position is a part of an OPUS project funded by the National Science Centre (NCN) and will be conducted in cooperation with the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

The goal of the project is to understand the evolutionary interplay between host specialization and dispersal. Specifically, we will investigate how evolution in constant or changing environments shapes the host range and dispersal ability of an invasive plant-feeding mite.

The PhD student is expected to carry out field work in agricultural landscapes in Poland (1st year), then to conduct selection experiments, assess dispersal efficiency, maintain mite stock colonies, measure population parameters, contribute to laboratory molecular analyses, participate in scientific discussions and write manuscripts.

We offer a position for 3 years (renewable each year) and a friendly, supportive working environment. The scholarship is ~3000 PLN/month (~700 EUR/month, which allows for a reasonable standard of living in Poland).

Applicants should have:

- a Master of Science degree in Biological Sciences (biology, ecology, zoology, biochemistry, etc.);
 - interest in ecology and evolutionary biology;
 - English language skills (fluent communication, both written and spoken);
 - organizational skills, self-reliance, willingness to learn, smooth and productive cooperation within a team.
- Additionally, prior scientific activity (e.g. articles, conferences, fellowships) is desirable.

How to apply: Applications should include: motivation letter, CV including research experience and publication list, reference contacts to 2 researchers, and a scan of University diploma. Please send your application as soon as possible to: anna.skoracka@amu.edu.pl and include "PhD position" in the e-mail subject line, no later than 15 March 2017.

Selected candidates will be invited for an interview (in person or via Skype). The successful applicant will then apply to the AMU Faculty of Biology as a PhD candidate following the standard procedure.

If you have any questions regarding this position please feel free to contact me: anna.skoracka@amu.edu.pl

More information about the project and our research group can be found here:

<http://popecol.home.amu.edu.pl/research/evo-eco-erio/spec-disp/>



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