

University of Bern, Switzerland, Institute of Ecology and Evolution

PhD position in plant-pollinator interactions

application deadline: 24.11.2014

We are offering a PhD project on the influence of light pollution on plant-pollinator interactions. The three-year position is funded by the Swiss National Foundation and located at the Community Ecology Group of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Over the last decade, research on plant-pollinator interactions has mostly focused only on diurnal pollinators and neglected nocturnal pollinators. Consequently, our current understanding of plant-pollinator interaction networks is very incomplete. Simultaneously artificial lighting is rapidly increasing worldwide, but almost nothing is known about how it affects nocturnal pollinator communities. Main objectives of the proposed project are to advance our understanding and relevance of nocturnal plant-pollinator interactions, and how they are affected by increased light pollution. The project comprises field work during day and night as well as statistical modelling of plant-pollinator networks.

The ideal candidate is a highly motivated researcher with a master degree in Biology/Ecology or closely related discipline. He/She should have skills in conducting and coordinating field work and in processing and analysing large data sets (preferably using R). For field work a driver's licence is mandatory. Ideally, the candidate would have proven experience in scientific writing in English. A working knowledge in German would be advantageous, for communicating with local land owners. The language spoken in the research group is English. The position will be available from February 2015 at the PhD salary rates of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The PhD project will be supervised by PD Dr. Eva Knop at the University of Bern. Please send your curriculum vitae, including previous research experience and publication list (if available), together with a short motivation letter (with the names and addresses of two referees) as one

PDF file to Eva Knop.

E-mail: eva.knop@iee.unibe.ch .

The deadline for applications is November 24th, 2014.