

Funded PhD position in Experimental Community Ecology

A four year fully funded **PhD Studentship** is available for a highly motivated candidate to explore how species diversity and genetic variation are maintained in nature. This collaborative project utilizes a novel experimental food web model system of wild *Drosophila* species and their parasitoids from tropical Australia. The student will be involved in obtaining live *Drosophila* and parasitoid lines from the field and will use laboratory microcosm experiments coupled with molecular methods to address major questions in community ecology and population biology, including stability of communities or their response to disturbances, such as heat waves, or invasion of a new species. The exact focus of the PhD will be decided together with the student.

The successful applicant will join the Laboratory of Experimental Ecology [<http://lab.hrcek.net>] at the Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, under the supervision of Dr Jan Hrcek. The laboratory is a multinational team of PhD students, postdocs and technicians and the applicant will have the opportunity to work extensively with other team members. The laboratory has high-level funding for five years and therefore lot of resources for exceptional experiments and genomics. The laboratory is part of the Department of Ecology, a dynamic multinational centre for interaction network research with regular publications in leading journals. The student will further be in regular contact with the Community Ecology group at Oxford [<https://communityecology.zoo.ox.ac.uk>] and other collaborators. The fieldwork in Australia will be conducted in collaboration with Dr Megan Higgie (JCU) [<https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/megan.higgie/>].

The deadline for applications is **31st October 2019**, with possible start date from January 2019 onwards. The student will receive a salary which comfortably covers living expenses in the Czech Republic. The salary will be composed of stipend from the University of South Bohemia and part time employment at Biology Centre CAS. The working language is English and applicants from all countries are eligible.

Required

- A master's degree (non-negotiable requirement for PhD study in the Czech Republic)
- A strong educational track record in biological sciences

Desirable

- Research experience with laboratory experiments, insect ecology or molecular ecology
- Experience in ecological statistics, ecological modelling or bioinformatics
- Experience with molecular laboratory work
- Driving licence and fieldwork experience

To apply please send one document with your CV, contact details for two references, and cover letter stating qualifications, previous work and motivation to Jan Hrcek [janhrcek@gmail.com].