

Funded PhD position in Experimental Community Ecology

A four-year fully funded **PhD Studentship** is available for a highly motivated candidate to explore how the structure of ecological networks influences network resilience to disturbances like heat waves and biological invasions. 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 and ecological models to address major questions in community ecology.

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 substantial resources and support for exceptional experiments. The laboratory is part of the Department of Ecology, a dynamic multinational centre for research on interaction networks, with regular publications in leading journals. Furthermore, the student will work with Dr Phillip Staniczenko from the City University of New York [<https://www.staniczenkoresearch.net/>] on ecological models of network response to disturbances. There is also option to collaborate with the Community Ecology group at the University of Oxford [<https://communityecology.zoo.ox.ac.uk>] and others. Fieldwork in Australia will be conducted in collaboration with Dr Megan Higgie from James Cook University [<https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/megan.higgie/>].

The deadline for applications is **3rd January 2020**, with a possible start date from March 2020 onwards. The student will receive a salary which comfortably covers living expenses in the Czech Republic. The salary will be composed of a stipend from the University of South Bohemia and from 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 with ecological modelling or ecological statistics
- Experience with molecular laboratory work
- Driving licence and fieldwork experience

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