

PhD in Population Genetics and Community Ecology

We invite prospective candidates for a four-year fully funded **PhD Studentship** to explore exciting questions on the interface of population genetics and community ecology. How is genetic variation maintained within populations? And how do species coexist in diverse communities? These are analogous major questions, but are typically addressed separately. However, genetic variation is likely to have a key role in determining species coexistence. Similarly, species diversity may improve maintenance of genetic variation. The candidate will investigate interactions between variation and diversity using laboratory microcosm experiments, experimental evolution and field surveys. This collaborative project utilizes a novel experimental community 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 in analysing population genomic data.

The successful applicant will join the Laboratory of Experimental Ecology [<http://lab.hrcek.net>] at the 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 obtained prestigious high-level funding for five years from 2020 to 2025 (ERC-CZ grant) and therefore can provide substantial resources and support for exceptional research. The laboratory is part of the Department of Ecology, a dynamic international centre for research on interaction networks, with regular publications in leading journals. The student will be co-advised on population genetics by Prof Jon Bridle from University College London, UK (moving from University of Bristol) [<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=YXLkASMAAAAJ>]. Fieldwork in Australia will be conducted in collaboration with Dr Megan Higgie from James Cook University [<https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/megan.higgie/>] and additional collaborations are possible.

The deadline for applications is **10th June 2020**, with a possible start date from October 2020 onwards. The student will receive a salary which comfortably covers living expenses in the Czech Republic. The working language is English and applicants from all countries are eligible. An MSc is required to enter PhD in Czech Republic. Interested candidates who do not have an MSc are invited to contact Jan, there is possibility to do MSc thesis in Jan's lab.

A strong educational track record in biological sciences is required.

Desirable:

- Experience with population genetics or genomics
- Experience in population genetic modelling or bioinformatics
- Research experience with laboratory experiments, insect ecology or molecular ecology
- 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].