

PhD Position in Plant phylogenetics and evolution

100%, start July 2019 or upon agreement

The working group of Dr. Jurriaan de Vos (Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Basel, Switzerland; ppe.duw.unibas.ch/en/devos/) investigates the evolution and ecology of plant clades, with special emphasis on reproductive diversity. Our research primarily uses comparative phylogenetic approaches and aims at understanding the drivers of reproductive trait evolution and identifying the macro-evolutionary axes along which life diversifies.

The open position is funded through the SNF project "*Plant reproduction of the alpine zone: disentangling ecological drivers of trait evolution*", that investigates how plants adapt during major ecological transitions. The project addresses drivers of reproductive trait evolution in genera that radiated across elevational belts in multiple mountain systems. It addresses the extent to which species from different evolutionary backgrounds evolve similarly (convergently) along the same environmental gradients, helping us to understand whether studies of adaptation on few species can be generalized.

Your Tasks

The successful candidate will: improve phylogenies of multiple large plant genera using phylogenomic methods; assemble trait- and locality datasets based on field work (Alps, Andes) and herbarium specimens; use statistical phylogenetic methods to test how environmental factors drive trait evolution; disseminate results.

Profile

We are looking for a dynamic, reliable and motivated PhD-student with a degree in biology or related discipline. The position requires a strong interest in plant evolution, the ability to work analytically with large datasets, the willingness to travel to remote, steep field sites and to herbaria abroad, and excellent spoken and written English language skills. Prior experience with statistical phylogenetics / comparative methods and next generation sequence data is highly desirable.

We Offer

We offer a PhD position in an international and interdisciplinary research environment at the University of Basel, Switzerland. The project will benefit from the University's excellent facilities, including the Herbaria and a fully equipped alpine research station (www.alpfor.ch). Salary and social benefits are provided according to University of Basel rules. Basel is a vibrant international city with a medieval old town, offering excellent quality of life.

Contact

Please email your complete application in a single pdf file (containing your CV; a motivation letter that includes your career goals; and contact information of at least two references) to Mrs. Maura Ellenberger (maura.ellenberger@unibas.ch). Review of applications will start 1 May 2019 and continue until the position is filled. Further information can be obtained from Jurriaan de Vos (jurriaan.devos@unibas.ch).