

PhD position on plant functional ecology and eco-metabolomics along elevation gradients

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Unravelling plant chemical and functional trait variation across environments: We seek a postdoctoral researcher to study how shifts in plant functional trait composition (both physical and chemical) across the elevation gradients of the Alps impact key ecosystem processes, such as plant-microbe-insect herbivore interaction, as well as carbon and nutrient cycling processes. For this, we will perform a series of field common garden experiments at different elevations and across different Alpine transects. We will perform bioassays with plants, microbes and insect herbivores, and we will measure plant traits, including measuring untargeted metabolomics within the chemical ecology centre of competence at the University of Neuchâtel.

Qualifications: We seek an enthusiastic, responsible, and highly-motivated individual with excellent and interpersonal communication skills in verbal and written English, and a strong work ethic. We seek someone capable of conducting primary research, mostly in the field but also in the lab, for developing scientific publications targeted for prominent international journals. We seek someone with a Master degree in plant ecology, chemical ecology, or closely related field, particularly with an emphasis on plant functional ecology, metabolomic and phylogenetic analyses, and plant-biotic interactions. Good numerical and statistical skills, including the use of bioinformatic pipelines are desirable.

Place of work:
Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Starting date:
There is some flexibility, but the anticipated starting date will be 1 June 2022.

Application:
The application should contain the following: 1) a cover letter describing yourself and your match to the above-mentioned project; 2) a CV describing your education, publications, and relevant work experience, 3) names and contact information for at least two references.

The application deadline is April 1 2022. Please, send all the information to Sergio Rasmann (sergio.rasmann@unine.ch).