

Postdoc position in plant functional ecology and eco-metabolomics along elevation gradients

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 interactions, as well as carbon and nutrient cycling processes. You will perform a series of field-based common garden experiments at different elevations and across different alpine transects. You will perform bioassays with plants, microbes and insect herbivores, and will measure plant traits, including untargeted metabolomics analyses at the chemical ecology centre of competence at the University of Neuchâtel.

Qualifications: We seek an enthusiastic, responsible, and highly-motivated individual with excellent interpersonal communication skills in verbal and written English, and with a strong work ethic. We seek someone capable of conducting primary research, mostly in the field but also in the lab, and of developing scientific publications targeted at prominent international journals. We seek someone with a PhD in plant ecology, chemical ecology, or a closely related field, with a particular emphasis on plant functional ecology, metabolomic and phylogenetic analyses, and/or plant-biotic interactions. The candidate must have proven proficiency in writing and publishing peer-reviewed scientific papers. Good numerical and statistical skills, including the use of bioinformatic pipelines, are desirable. As postdoctoral appointments are career-developing positions for junior researchers, we are primarily looking for candidates with a doctoral degree that is three years old at most.

Place of work:

Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Form of employment:

Temporary employment, 12 months, with potential for renewal for a total of 48 months.

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 three references.

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