



MSc Project

Hidden in the dark: Ecology and faunistics of groundwater amphipods in Switzerland using a citizen science approach.

We are looking for an enthusiastic MSc student who will be working on the ecology and faunistics of groundwater amphipods. The project involves extensive fieldwork, laboratory work and is part of a larger research program (based at Eawag, Dübendorf).

Amphipods are a diverse and ecologically highly relevant group of freshwater invertebrates. In a large study program, we have already recorded about 40 different species of Amphipods in Switzerland over the last few years. Thereby, we also discovered a high richness of endemic species, especially among subterranean amphipods of the genus *Niphargus*. However, their ecology and faunistics are still understudied due to the difficulty in accessing them in caves, groundwater or interstitial habitats.

In this MSc project, you would develop and use a citizen science approach to get amphipod samples from groundwater and spring habitats. You will contact municipal drinking water suppliers in Switzerland, provide them with sampling kits and instructions but also sample the amphipods yourself in their water supply systems. We expect the discovery of several species new to Switzerland, potentially even new to science. You will identify the amphipods using morphological and molecular tools and link their occurrence to environmental/biogeographic variables. The data will be eventually integrated into public databases (CSCF). In the project you will have the opportunity to interact with stakeholders, such as BAFU or cantonal environmental agencies. For more details see: www.amphipod.ch

Requirements: Interest in ecology and faunistics of aquatic invertebrates, German/French and English language skills, interest to work on a stakeholder relevant project (BAFU funded), valid driver's licence and driving practice. The MSc project can start any time.



Contact/Supervision:

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More info: www.altermattlab.ch

We are looking forward to meeting you!