

The Laboratory of Aquatic Insect Ecology of the Universidade Vila Velha (UVV, Brazil) has an opening for a 2-years Post-Doctoral position in Applied Stream Ecology on an international project in collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts (SUPSI) and the University of Zürich (UZH) in Switzerland and the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) and Universidade Comunitária da Região de Chapecó (UNOCHAPECÓ) in Brazil.

Post-Doctoral position in Applied Stream Ecology

Headwater stream food webs are based on leaf litter from the riparian vegetation as principal basal resource. Microorganisms (mainly fungi) and invertebrates govern the processes of litter decomposition and secondary production in these food webs. Process rates depend on taxonomic and functional biodiversity of these organism groups and of leaf litter. However, biodiversity in these food webs and their resource availability are increasingly threatened by anthropogenic alterations. Of these alterations, changes to the riparian vegetation as a consequence of land-use are particularly influential. Despite functional similarity, tropical and temperate stream food webs have shown to respond differently to such alterations due to substantial differences in relative importance of microbial and invertebrate decomposers. However, such differences in responses have not been systematically compared using a food web perspective. The project aims at elucidating the effects of degradation of riparian vegetation on biodiversity and ecosystem processes in stream food-webs. It is based on replicate field experiments in Switzerland (sites north and south of the Alps) and in the Atlantic Forest, state of Espírito Santo, south-east Brazil. In line with the research questions, the project puts equal weight on microbial and invertebrate detritivores and aims at testing direct and indirect effects on the functioning of these food webs using advanced statistical analyses (incl. structural equation modelling). The project also has an explicit outreach component with stakeholder workshops planned in Switzerland and Brazil towards the end of the project. The project is part of the programme of Joint Research Projects (JRPs) for collaboration between Switzerland and Brazil, with funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and Research Foundation of the State of Espírito Santo (FAPES).

The Post-Doctoral Researcher will mainly be based at UVV (Laboratory of Aquatic Insect Ecology, Prof. Dr. Marcelo Moretti) and collaborate with a PhD-student (mainly based at SUPSI), Master students and researchers from the research groups of Prof. Dr. Adriana Medeiros (UFBA) and Prof. Dr. Renan Rezende (UNOCHAPECÓ). Within the framework of the project and its research questions, the Post-Doctoral Researcher has the freedom to develop his/her own research focus in terms of organism groups or statistical approaches. He/she is expected to spend some period in Switzerland for field work and training (October 2020 to January 2021 mainly in the Stream Ecology Group, Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, led by Dr. Andreas Bruder) and for training at UZH (in the research group of Prof. Dr. Florian Altermatt, Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies).

We are looking for applicants that have a passion for science and applied ecology and an independent, enthusiastic, and interactive work ethic. Competitive applicants have a PhD degree (or equivalent) in Ecology or Environmental Sciences and substantial training in field and labwork. Priority will be given to applicants who have completed their degree not longer than three years before the application deadline. Solid basic knowledge of statistics and very good communication and writing skills in English are a requirement. Given the nature of the project, enthusiasm and flexibility to travel is an important advantage.

Further information can be obtained from the webpages of UVVs [Laboratory of Aquatic Insect Ecology](#), SUPSI's [Stream Ecology Group](#), and from www.altermattlab.ch and directly from Dr. Marcelo Moretti (marcelo.moretti@uvv.br, Phone: +55 27 3421-2235).

Application dossiers (all documents in English in a single pdf file) must be submitted by 29th February 2020 to marcelo.moretti@uvv.br and must include (i) a motivation letter with a short description of relevant work experience (max. two A4 pages); (ii) a complete CV (list of education, qualifications and employment); (iii) a complete list of publications, including submitted and accepted manuscripts; (iv) names and contact details of three references from earlier academic projects; and (v) copies of certificates of academic qualifications. The involved institutes promote diversity and equal opportunity in science and thus particularly invite members of groups underrepresented in academia, incl. women, to apply.