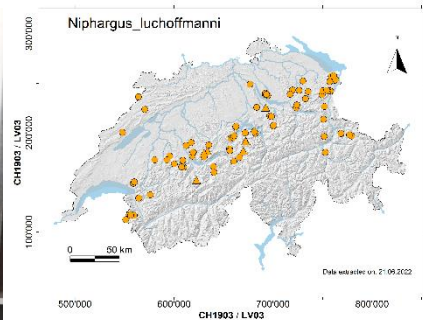
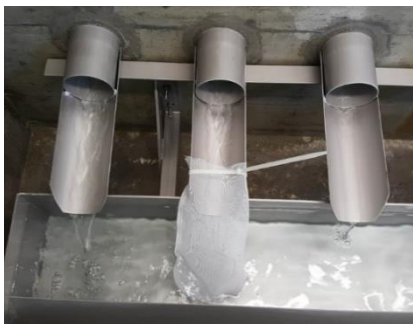




## MSc Project

### Tracing down the elusive subterranean amphipod fauna in Switzerland

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and independent person with a passion for science to join us as a MSc student. The person will be working on the subterranean amphipod fauna in underexplored regions of their distribution Switzerland. The project involves extensive fieldwork, morphological identification of specimens in the laboratory and statistical analyses of diversity patterns.



Amphipods are a diverse and ecologically highly relevant group of freshwater crustaceans. In a large study program, we have already recorded more than 50 different species of amphipods in Switzerland from thousands of sites. We documented about two thirds of their diversity in subterranean habitats. Nevertheless, we still lack information on certain regions of Switzerland, for example in the Lower Valais / Aigle region. The advertised project should trace down the species and document their distribution. This will lay the foundations for conservation measures such as red lists.

The project will use a combination of citizen science approaches, extensive field sampling campaigns, as well as molecular and morphological analysis of groundwater amphipods of the genus *Niphargus*. The project is a comprehensive combination of research planning, conducting fieldwork, pursuing lab work, analyzing data, and preparing a manuscript, with a rather applied focus.

**Requirements:** Interest in ecology and faunistics of aquatic invertebrates, English language skills, fluent in French to organize and pursue sampling in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, high independence and organisation skills, interest to plan fieldwork and to identify invertebrate samples under the stereomicroscope, valid driver's licence and driving practice. The MSc project start is foreseen in Spring 2026. We are looking forward to meeting you!

#### Contact/Supervision:



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➔ More info: [www.altermattlab.ch](http://www.altermattlab.ch)