

Doctoral Position (UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN)
Bewerbungsfrist: 5.12.2008

“Biodiversity and plant-insect interactions in a grassland management gradient”

Rationale

Agricultural intensification is known to greatly influence biodiversity and multitrophic interactions, but the relative contribution of herbs and grasses to functional biodiversity is less understood. In a multidisciplinary approach with plant ecologists, soil ecologists and phytopathologists, we characterize insect responses to fertilization, mowing and herb-grass composition in a highly replicated field experiment with large plots. Management and plant community effects will be characterized by insect samples, quantification of herbivory and experiments with phytometers and insect herbivores, addressing responses of pollinators, herbivores and predators (see Tschamtké et al. 2005, *Ecology Letters* 8: 857-874; Krüess & Tschamtké 2002, *Conservation Biology* 16: 1570-1580, *Biological Conservation* 104: 275-284; in addition: <http://www.uni-goettingen.gwdg.de/de/76701.html>)

Requirements

MSc or Diploma degree in biology, agriculture or related disciplines. Knowledge in plant-insect interactions and insect communities is desirable. Interest in independent research. Statistics skills would be useful.

Salary and conditions

Salary is 1100 Euro per month. Start date: as soon as possible (e.g., January 1, 2009). The position is for three years. The doctoral thesis will be done as a series of English manuscripts.

Applications

Applicants should send their CV, including a short summary of research interests, and the names (with email address) of two references to the address below (per email) as soon as possible (latest 5th December, 2008).

For further information, please contact : Dr. Christoph Scherber, Agroecology, University of Goettingen, Waldweg 26, D-37073 Goettingen, Tel. +49-551-398807, Fax +49-551-398806, email: christoph.scherber@agr.uni-goettingen.de or Prof. Teja Tschamtké (same address), Tel. +49-551-399209, email: ttschar@gwdg.de