6 Months funding of 3500 Euros for a Master project available at Rennes, France, on "Where will herbivores succeed to track the phenologies of their host trees under climate change?"

Note that you can be registered at your home university.

In short: Under what conditions do communities and populations of herbivorous insects track phenologies of their host trees? Rather in a neighborhood of other host trees or rather in isolation among non-host trees (low or high phylogenetic isolation)? Rather on trees with high or low intra-individual variability? The results will help to predict under which conditions herbivorous insects will follow the change of their hosts imposed by climate changes. The focus is on the budburst phenology of trees, but other aspects can be treated.

The project is a study on the effects of climate change that is mechanistic and experimental. We will take into account the micro evolutionary response of herbivores, and the physiology of trees. We will test micro-evolutionary responses to climate through larval mortality. The project may help to identify eco-evolutionary structures of tree communities that allow an evolutionary response of herbivores to climate change, a form of eco-evolutionary feedback. The project may also help to identify how these eco-evolutionary structures of tree communities can be used to control herbivores in a changing world. A form of applied evolutionary biology.

The host lab here is the UNITE MIXTE DE RECHERCHE (UMR) ECOBIO - ECOSYSTEMES, BIODIVERSITE, EVOLUTION, co-funded by University of Rennes 1 and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. https://ecobio.univ-rennes1.fr/. The research unit has particular expertise in mechanisms of speciation, life history evolution, and adaptation, expertise at the interface between macroevolution and macroecology, expertise in ecophysiology, landscape ecology and behavioral ecology, environmental genomics, community assembly and plant/herbivore interactions. It is a large institution with several dozens of CNRS-researchers, docents and professors, plus technical staff. It was ranked A in the national evaluation of research institutions. Several further research institutions in ecology and evolutionary biology exist at Rennes.

RENNES has approximately 217 000 inhabitants and is the capitol of the Bretagne region with exceptional coastal and mainland landscapes, and a french-celtic heritage (http://www.bretagne.fr/internet/jcms/TFD71112_5061/tourisme ). It is situated some 1.5 hours by train from Paris. English is spoken everywhere in Academia. Like in any French city, child care is excellent (almost for free, no waiting list, nearby). Several bilingual French-English schools are available at all levels of education, as well as one French-German grammar school.

Please contact me *as soon as possible* if you are interested
Have a good day
Andreas Prinzing

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