

PhD – Rapid Evolution in Communities

We invite prospective candidates for a four-year **PhD Studentship funded by ERC grant of Jan Hrcek** to explore exciting questions on the interface of population genetics and community ecology.

It is increasingly clear that evolution can be rapid, with important traits changing within a few generations. But we are only beginning to understand the consequences of this eco-evolutionary process for dynamics of host – parasite interactions and stability of entire communities. We ask how rapid evolution impacts maintenance of diversity in communities and maintenance of genetic variation in populations - processes which have been mostly studied separately.

To address these questions, our collaborative project uses a novel experimental community model system of wild *Drosophila* species and their parasitoids from tropical Australia. We are able to perform multigenerational laboratory microcosm experiments and track eco-evolutionary dynamics in fine detail. The candidate will use a combination of approaches: experimental community evolution, population genomics, and eco-evolutionary modelling. The specific PhD projects will result from a discussion between the candidate and the supervisor.

The successful applicant will join the Laboratory of Experimental Ecology [<http://lab.hrcek.net>] at the Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, under the supervision of Dr Jan Hrcek. The laboratory is a multinational team of postdocs, PhD students and technicians. The applicant will thus have the opportunity to work extensively with other team members. The laboratory obtained prestigious high-level funding (ERC Consolidator grant) and therefore can provide substantial resources and support for exceptional research. The laboratory is part of a dynamic international centre for research in species interactions.

Together with the PhD student we will choose a co-supervisor from current international collaborators or start new collaborations. The position will include a research stay abroad.

The deadline for applications is **7th May 2026** with interviews short after. The position can start from March 2026 onwards. Recently, guaranteed income for PhD students has become a law in the Czech Republic and the student will thus receive a salary which comfortably covers living expenses in the Czech Republic. The working language is English and applicants from all countries are eligible. A MSc degree is required to enter PhD in Czech Republic. Following experience is an advantage:

- Research experience with laboratory experiments
- Experience with population genetics or molecular ecology
- Experience in eco-evolutionary dynamics or population genetic modelling

To apply please send one document comprising a motivation letter, CV, and contact details for two references to Jan Hrcek [janhrcek@gmail.com].

