

Master thesis project work

Genome size in hybridizing *Primula*

Our research group studies the enigmatic group of flowering plants, *Primula* (Schlüsselblume, Primel). One aspect of our research is investigating hybridization in natural populations of *Primula* in Switzerland.

We are looking for a master's student with a background in biology, genetics, or plant sciences (or similar degree) interested in doing her/his Master thesis project work on the proposed topic.

For this project, we are testing the hypothesis that plants that are the result of hybridization might have a larger (i.e., polyploid) genome than non-hybrids in the same population. Specifically, the master's student would be trained to use a flow cytometer to quantify plant genomes. Flow cytometry is a laboratory method that uses a laser to provide information about cells. Flow cytometry is a common technique in the medical field for investigating cancer cells or hematological abnormalities, but we will be using this instrument to for quantifying the cells in plant genomes.

This research will result in at least one major publication on which the master's student would be an author. We would also be able to tailor this project to include other interests specific to the applicant, if desired. This includes, for example, opportunities for field or greenhouse studies or research more focused at the cellular level. We are looking for a student with a strong background in biology or genetics, proficiency in English, and who is based in Zürich or the surrounding areas.

If interested, please e-mail Rebecca.Stubbs@uzh.ch.

General info on Master thesis at UZH in biology:

<https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/Masterstudium.html>

