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Postdoc position in coexistence and biodiversity synthesis at the University of Bern

Applications are invited for a three-year postdoc position, ideally starting in December 2023 or January 2024, to work with Prof. Eric Allan, at the University of Bern in Switzerland. The position is at 80-100% employment.

Understanding plant species coexistence and effects of biodiversity on functioning are key goals of community ecology. However, although related, the two fields have rarely been integrated. We are looking for a postdoc to address this by doing synthesis analysis in the PaNDiv biodiversity experiment.

The PaNDiv experiment (<https://allanecology.com/projects/pandiv/>) is a large biodiversity experiment in Münchenbuchsee near Bern in Switzerland. It manipulates plant species diversity, plant functional composition, nitrogen addition and fungal pathogen reduction with fungicide. It has been running since 2016 and has collected annual time series of plant biomass, fungal infection and plant nutrient data, together with changes in plant abundance in weeded and unweeded plots. In addition, a wide range of ecosystem functions and the diversities of several groups of organisms have been measured. Further, we have measured competition between all species in the experiment, allowing coexistence mechanisms to be estimated.

The postdoc will work on analysing the large datasets collected in the experiment. For instance, they could examine links between coexistence and biodiversity mechanisms, community reassembly and ecosystem functioning, the stability of ecosystem functioning over time and ecosystem multifunctionality.

We are seeking highly motivated applicants interested in plant community ecology, coexistence theory and biodiversity-functioning research. Applicants must hold a PhD degree in ecology. Strong analytical and data handling skills are required, together with excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

The postdoc will join the community ecology group (<https://allanecology.com/>) at the Institute of Plant Sciences in Bern, which offers a stimulating, international research environment and excellent facilities (<http://www.ips.unibe.ch/>). They will work closely with a PhD student on the PaNDiv experiment and will collaborate with Oscar Godoy (CSIC Seville) on the coexistence analyses.

Please send your application by email (as a single PDF) to eric.allan@ips.unibe.ch. Applications should include a CV, names and addresses of two references and a one-page cover letter outlining your motivation for the position and research interests. Applications will be reviewed from **9th October 2023 until the position is filled.**

For queries on the application process or more information on the position, please contact Prof. Eric Allan eric.allan@ips.unibe.ch



The PaNDiv Experiment in Münchenbuchsee, near Bern in Switzerland. Picture by Hugo Vincent.