

A position for **Postdoctoral Researcher** is available to work on the project

*Does competition really structure ant communities in tropical forest canopies?*

A highly motivated **Postdoctoral Researcher** is sought to join a project that aims to explore the relative contribution of biotic (interspecies competition, forest structure) and abiotic effects (climate) on the structuring of canopy ant communities in tropical rain forests. The successful candidate will co-design, and conduct field surveys, and experimental transplants of ant colonies across different forest systems and between dominant species territories in New Guinea, a region with globally high insect and plant diversity. In addition to innovative manipulations of species composition, the project will include functional and phylogenetic measures of ant diversity, and behavioural and thermal-tolerance experiments. He/she will have opportunities to develop the project in the field, as well as to build upon existing plot-based datasets on ants living in trees. Duties will include conducting and supervising the field work in Papua New Guinea, and working in our laboratory in the Czech Republic.

The successful applicant will join the **Ant Research Group** (<http://antscience.com/>) at the Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre CAS, Czech Republic, under the leadership of Dr. Petr Klimes. The research facility is in Ceske Budejovice, a charming historical city in the south of the country. The laboratory is a dynamic, multinational group studying ant ecology. It is embedded within the [Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology](#) of Prof. Vojtech Novotny (the head), a world-class centre for tropical ecology research that publish in leading journals (e.g. *Ecology Letters*, *Ecography*, *Science*). The applicant will also collaborate with [New Guinea Binatang Research Centre](#) and the [Laboratory of Behavioural Ecology at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz](#).

**The deadline for applications is April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**, with expected start date of between July – September 2021. The successful applicant will receive the full time employment with salary CZK 40,000 per month (approx. EUR 1500 pre-tax). Note that living costs in Czech Republic are substantially lower than in many other EU countries (e.g. <http://bit.ly/1NCkQKJ>), and the salary is competitive (<https://www.platy.cz/en/salaryinfo/education-science-research>). The position is funded by a Czech Science Foundation grant until Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

#### Required

- A PhD degree in ecology or related field
- Interest in the community ecology of insects
- Ability to work independently and manage small team of assistants in the field, as well as collaborate with other senior and junior team members (i.e. co-supervise PhD students)
- Fluency in spoken English, and skills in academic writing in this language
- Good publication record for career stage in the field
- Experience with ecological analyses on the species-rich communities

#### Desirable

- Previous experience in tropics, particularly in rainforest ecology and manipulative experiments
- Research experience with ant ecology & entomology
- A strong publication record in the above fields
- Advanced analytical skills in R for the community ecology discipline

To apply, please send a CV, contact details for three references, and cover letter stating qualifications, previous work, your preferred start time, and motivation for the position to **Petr Klimes** ([klimes@entu.cas.cz](mailto:klimes@entu.cas.cz)). If you want to discuss the project further, feel free to ask.