

BSc/MSc thesis in insect ecology and forest management (Nationalparks Gesäuse + Kalkalpen)



Project description

We are offering a BSc/MSc thesis on insect ecology and forest management, with a specific focus on dendrotelms. The aim of the research is to deepen our understanding of connectivity between insect habitats and the role of forest management in relation to insect habitat connectivity. The fieldwork takes place in and around the national parks Kalkalpen and Gesäuse, Austria and is in collaboration with the BFW (Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft) as part of a larger project that addresses all kind of Microhabitats on the same areas to understand their connectivity for biotope networking. Within the project there will be room for development of your own ideas.

Fieldwork

The central question is the influence of forest management techniques on ecological communities and biotope networking. Field work will run End of April/May to August and include measurements of herbivory, insect diversity and abundance (by sample artificial and natural treeholes) and the identification of insects to species level.

Qualifications

The candidate should have an interest in community ecology, insects and data analysis (experience using R is desirable). For field work, walking on steep, pathless terrain should not pose any problems. Experience in tree climbing is very welcome.

Contact:

If you are interested, please contact Lena Holzapfel, University of Salzburg (lena.holzapfel@plus.ac.at). Further information: www.plus.ac.at/petermann.