Two PhD position in Stockholm: Interactions among plants, insects, fungal diseases & endosymbionts

Dear colleagues,

We seek two highly motivated PhD-students to join the long-term research on the pedunculate oak / coffee.


The positions are in the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University. The closing date for applications is May 2.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us directly by email,

My best,

Ayco Tack & Kristoffer Hylander
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1. PhD student in Plant Ecology: Interactions between Plants, Microbes and Insects
The position will be associated with the long-term research on insect and pathogen dynamics on wild plants in the research group of Ayco Tack. The overall aim of the research is to understand the role of plant–microbe-insect interactions in structuring plant-based communities in nature. The core of the PhD project is to investigate the role of insect microbes (endosymbionts) and plant-based microbes (endophytes, pathogens) in understanding the spatial and temporal dynamics of the diverse insect and pathogen community on the oak tree Quercus robur. The main tasks include field work (field sampling and surveys, dataloggers) and laboratory work (molecular identification of the endophytes and insect endosymbionts). The work may also involve experiments where the microbial community on the leaves or roots is manipulated. The exact direction of the project will depend on the skills and interest of the applicant.

2. PhD-position in Plant Ecology at Stockholm University (coffee, pests, Ethiopia)
The position will be associated with the project “Managing coffee to increase farmer’s livelihood and biodiversity in Ethiopia” with is financed by SIDA. The aim of the project is to increase the knowledge of how to manage coffee systems for positive synergies between biodiversity and farmer’s incomes. The core of the project is to investigate plant-fungal interactions of major coffee pathogens along a gradient in management intensity. Along this gradient we will investigate fungal infestation rates, coffee yields, coffee genetic variation and various measures of biodiversity and management. The field work will take place in Ethiopia but the position is placed at Stockholm University.