PhD opportunity in Australia!

PhD scholarship available: work in the amazing wildflower communities of Australia

The Rader lab (raderlab.com), in collaboration with the Mayfield lab (mayfieldplantecologylab.org), is offering a unique and exciting opportunity for a motivated, independent and adventurous PhD candidate to study pollination networks in wildflower communities in the floristically diverse york gum woodlands of Western Australia. Once a year, diverse native plant communities burst into flower, creating one of natureÂ's true spectacles. Although once widespread, these hyper-diverse wildflower communities now persist in remnant habitat patches surrounded by a sea of agriculture. This system provides a unique opportunity to investigate novel questions linking human-driven environmental disturbance (agricultural expansion) to changes in plant-pollinator networks and plant reproduction. For example, do species with similar network roles also respond in the same way to land-use change? Does agricultural expansion result in increased flow of heterospecific pollen (pollen from different plant species)? What do these changes mean for plant reproduction?

The successful PhD candidate will be required to: identify sites for sampling plant-pollinator networks, collect insects for identification, collect stigmas for pollen identification, mark flowers and collect seed, conduct land-use analyses and analyse complex network data. This 3-year PhD project will be based at UNE, in Armidale, NSW Australia with regular travel to Western Australia, for up to 3 months per year, to conduct fieldwork. The first field season will begin in August 2019 and will run for several months. The successful applicant will need to be comfortable living in close quarters with other students and researchers, for up to several months at a time.

The successful candidate will have:

- Ecological fieldwork experience, preferably plants and insects.
- Strong analytical and programming skills, including experience or interest in network analyses. Experience with R language or similar is essential.
- Excellent writing skills and experience preparing scientific manuscripts for publication (at least one peer-reviewed publication is preferred).
- Experience working in remote locations and challenging environments.
- Good plant and insect identification skills, and ability to quickly learn new plant and insect IDs.
- Experience using ArcGIS or similar, or willingness to learn.
- Experience with pollination biology methods is desirable, but not essential.

About the lab: the Rader lab is based at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW Australia. We are a multi-disciplinary group, studying a range of topics including pollination networks, global change impacts on pollinator communities, crop pollination and ecosystem services.

Supervisors: Dr Romina Rader, Dr Jamie Stavert, Prof. Margaret Mayfield and Dr Manu

Saunders All applicants are required to send a CV and cover letter to Romina Rader:

rrader@une.edu.au by **15 February 2019. Contact Romina Rader: rrader@une.edu.au**

or Jamie Stavert: jamie.stavert@gmail.com for further information.

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