3-year PhD assistantship in plant evolution and biogeography

University of Zurich, Switzerland

Origin and evolution of island endemics in the Mediterranean Region. Our first studies on Rutaceae, Araceae and Boraginaceae used chloroplast DNA sequences and geological data to reconstruct the temporal and spatial frameworks for the origin of plants endemic to the continental fragment islands of Corsica and Sardinia and the oceanic islands of the Canarian archipelago. Some of the open questions include: i) Are species in the selected Mediterranean groups monophyletic? ii) What are the origins of the polyploid species? iii) Is there variation of ploidy levels within species? iv) Was island colonization associated with a shift of the ecological niche? The successful applicant will choose one or more of these plant families to: generate flow cytometry data aimed at determining ploidy levels; generate nuclear DNA sequences and infer species trees; incorporate ecological data to investigate issues of niche conservatism vs. niche evolution in the selected groups.

Experience in molecular, phylogenetic and flow-cytometry methods and/or ecological niche modeling will be highly valued in the selection process. Excellent knowledge of the English language, written and oral, required. Familiarity with additional European languages (especially Spanish) would be useful for fieldwork in the Mediterranean Region. The position will be open until a suitable candidate is selected, with starting date no later than February 1, 2011. For full job description, please contact Prof. Elena Conti (ContiElena@access.uzh.ch), Dr. Barbara Keller (barbara.keller@systbot.uzh.ch) or Frau Corinne Burlet (corinne.burlet@systbot.uzh.ch).

Upcoming events

2nd International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses
8-10 July 2010 – Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
http://on-climate.com/conference/

EDIT Summer School of Modern Taxonomy
European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy
17 July - 1 August 2010 – Madeira, Portugal
http://www.atbi.eu/summerschool/node/183

Plant Biology 2010
Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists and the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists
30 July - 5 August 2010 – Montreal, Canada
http://www.aspb.org/pb-2010/

95th ESA Annual Meeting
Ecological Society of America
1-6 August 2010 – Pittsburgh, USA
http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/

II Conference on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield
1-4 August 2010 – Amapá, Macapá, Brazil
http://www.ufpa.br/naea/

25th International Ornithological Congress
22-28 August 2010 – Campos do Jordão, Brasil
http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc/

Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GFÖE)
30 August - 3 September 2010 – Giessen, Germany
http://www.gfoe-giessen-2010.de/

FOSS4G 2010
Conference on Geospatial Free and Open Source Software
6-9 September 2010 – Barcelona, Spain
http://2010.foss4g.org/
BES Annual Meeting 2010
British Ecological Society
7-9 September 2010 – Leeds, UK
http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/

VI Spanish congress of biogeography
7-11 September 2010 – Alicante, Spain
http://web.ua.es/es/vi-congreso-biogeografia/

Global Change and the World’s Mountains
26-30 September 2010 – Perth, Scotland, UK
http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010

AfricaFOSSGIS 2010
Free and Open Source GIS software and its application and development in Africa
27-29 September 2010 – Johannesburg, South Africa
http://afossgis.org/

Hydrology Conference 2010
The Changing Physical and Social Environment: Hydrologic Impacts and Feedbacks
11-13 October 2010 – San Diego, California, USA
http://www.hydrologyconference.com

International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change
17-19 November 2010 – Manila, Philippines
http://www.icbdcc.com/

5th International Conference of the International Biogeography Society
7-11 January 2011 – Crete, Greece
http://www.biogeography.org/

Neogene park – Vertebrate migration in the Mediterranean and Paratethys
1-3 March 2011 – Scontrone, Italy
http://www.comune.scontrone.aq.it/

Spatial Statistics 2011
Mapping Global Change
23-25 March 2011 – Enschede, The Netherlands
http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/