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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

**OESCHGER CENTRE
CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH**

Oeschger Centre, Hochschulstrasse 4, CH-3012 Bern

The Institute of **Plant Sciences** <http://www.ips.unibe.ch> and the **Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research** <http://www.oeschger.unibe.ch/>, University of Bern, Switzerland invite applications for the following position starting **November 1, 2020**.

Postdoc “Direct and indirect effects of climate change on plant-herbivore interactions”

University of Bern, Switzerland

(80-100%, 2 years plus 1 year extension)

Climate change is predicted to alter interactions between plants and their consumers, with potentially large impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Climate change can affect plant-herbivore interactions through several mechanisms, including direct effects of temperature on herbivore feeding and indirect effects through changes in plant diversity, functional trait composition, defence compounds and predators. However, the importance of these different effects is not well known, hampering our ability to predict impacts of climate change on herbivory. The prospective PostDoc will sample plant and insect communities and measure plant functional traits along a large climatic gradient in Europe, from Greece to Sweden, thereby using an existing climate gradient as proxy for future climate changes. Structural equation modeling will be used to disentangle the direct and indirect effects of climate on insect communities and herbivory rates. The effects will then be upscaled and mapped at the continental scale using existing plant community and climate data. This will allow predictions of how climate change will alter plant consumer interactions and ecosystem functioning at large scales.

The PostDoc will be a part of the group of Prof. Dr. Eric Allan (Institute of Plant Sciences) and will collaborate with other researchers in the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change.

Profile of the candidate

The successful candidate holds a PhD in ecology and has a strong interest in climate change, plant ecology and biotic interactions. She/he has excellent data handling and statistical analysis skills and enjoys field work. The candidate is proficient in English and possesses a driving licence.

Details

Starting date: November 1, 2020 or upon agreement. Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland. The salary ranges between 88,00 and 100,000 CHF p.a. (gross salary; ca 90-100 k US\$).

For further information please contact Prof. Dr. Eric Allan (eric.allan@ips.unibe.ch) and Dr Anne Kempel (anne.kempel@ips.unibe.ch).

Applications

All applications received **before September 20th, 2020** will be reviewed, and further applications will be considered until the position is filled.

Please send your application documents including a CV, a motivation letter, and contact information for 3 references by e-mail to anne.kempel@ips.unibe.ch.

Homepages: <https://allanecology.com/> <http://www.oeschger.unibe.ch/> and <http://www.ips.unibe.ch>