

PhD position in pollinator ecology/conservation available at Agroscope: Impacts of managed honeybees on wild bees in agroecosystems

Project description

Wild bees are key pollinators of wild plants and crops, but they are threatened by multiple drivers such as habitat loss, pesticide exposure and climate change. There are increasing concerns that also managed honeybees could negatively affect wild bees through pathogen transmission and in particular through competition for floral resources, but the impacts on wild bee populations and potential measures to mitigate potential impacts remain poorly understood. In the Swiss National Science Foundation funded transdisciplinary project BEENERGIA (*"Bridging Ecological and socio-Economic scieNces to Enhance our undeRstandinG of the Interactions between mAnaged and wild bees"*) partners from several Swiss research institutions join forces and combine experimental and field observation ecological studies with molecular, modelling, socio-economic approaches to address these research gaps. The PhD candidate will perform ecological field experiments and observational studies with wild bees in Swiss agroecosystems designed to better understand impacts of managed on wild bee pollinators and the role of agri-environmental measures to mitigate potential negative effects. The knowledge generated by the PhD project in the framework of BEENERGIA should help to optimise effective management strategies to mitigate potential negative impacts of managed bees on wild bees and inform policy-making towards more effective conservation of wild bee pollinators in agroecosystems.

We are looking for an enthusiastic PhD to join the BEENERGIA team at Agroscope (Zürich, Switzerland).

Your tasks

- Planning and conducting ecological field experiments with wild bees
- Collecting ecological field data in agricultural landscapes in Switzerland
- Statistical analysis and interpretation of the gained data
- Publication of results in international journals
- Contribution to the dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders

Your qualifications

- MSc in Ecology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, or similar
- Interest and ideally experience in pollinator conservation / wild bee ecology / agroecology
- Experience with statistical analysis using the software R; ideally basic GIS skills
- Good communication and writing skills (ideally in English and German)
- High motivation, team player

What we offer

We offer competent supervision, a collaborative environment in a supporting team and an excellent research infrastructure. The PhD candidate will work in the research group Agricultural Landscapes and Biodiversity at Agroscope in Zürich. Agroscope is the Swiss federal centre of excellence for research in agriculture and food sector. The research group conducts basic and applied research to better understand drivers of biodiversity and how biodiversity and associated ecosystem services supporting sustainable agriculture can be effectively promoted.

Starting date	1 st of April 2025 or as agreed. Duration: 4 years.
Place of work	Zürich
Salary	According to the standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation
Employment level	100%

Application

We look forward to receiving your online application, including a maximum 1-page letter outlining your suitability and motivation for the post, detailed CV, including academic transcripts and contacts of 2-3 referees all together in one single PDF file. Application deadline: 15 January 2025.

Please send your application to matthias.albrecht@agroscope.admin.ch.