



Application deadline for Romanian candidates extended!

German-Romanian Summer School on Pollination Ecology

26 June – 4 July 2022

Western Transylvania (Eastern Hills of Cluj - Natura 2000 area), Romania

Topic and Objectives

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ), and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig offer a summer school in Romania that will provide students with hands-on experience in pollination ecology research. We will teach using a case study assessing the effects of land-use change on the diversity and composition of plants and pollinators and the structure of plant-pollinator interaction networks.

We will collect data in traditionally managed hay meadows of Romania, which harbour some of the most species rich plant and pollinator communities in Europe. Unfortunately many of these meadows have been abandoned as hay has lost its economic importance; while others have been transformed into intensive pastures. Our goal is to understand how these changes in land use have affected plant and pollinator communities and the structure of their interactions.

Students will learn to 1) collect data on plant-pollinator networks in the field; 2) identify the most important plant and pollinator taxa occurring in the study region; 3) perform statistical analyses and data visualizations in order to assess how land-use change has affects the diversity, composition and structure of plant-pollinator networks. All analyses will be conducted using the programming language R. The language of the summer school is English.

Location

The Eastern Hills of Cluj Natura 2000 area (see also <http://www.lepidoptera.ro/files/GhidM.pdf>; <https://bit.ly/3oet6O4>)

Duration

27 June – 3 July 2022

(7 full days with arrival on 26 June and departure on 4 July 2022)

Instructors

Prof. Dr. Tiffany Knight (MLU/ UFZ/ iDiv): expertise in pollination ecology, ecological synthesis (<https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=38645>)

Dr. Demetra Rakosy (UFZ/iDiv): expertise in entomology, network analyses (<https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=47437>)

Dr. Stefan Klotz (UFZ) expertise in Botany, understanding land use change, experimental design (<https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=38614>)

Dr. Annette Trefflich (State Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany): expertise in Botany, agroecology (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Annette-Trefflich>)

Dr. Reinart Feldmann (UFZ): expertise in entomology, ecological monitoring (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Reinart-Feldmann>).

Who can participate?

- Bachelor students (in their final years), MSc students or PhD candidates from Romania and Germany, specializing in the fields of botany, ecology, entomology or other related fields (please note that the course is designed as an introduction to the topic of pollination ecology, and the content is designed for students that are new to this field of study)

Requirements

- Interest in pollination ecology and data analysis
- Interest in botany and entomology are an asset
- Good English skills
- Motivation to learn in an intercultural working environment

Application process

Prospective participants of the summer school should send their application to nina.becker@idiv.de. Please enclose the following documents as one single PDF:

- a short CV (1 page), including detailed contact information
- a statement (max. 1 page) explicitly addressing
 - why you want to attend the summer school
 - your research interests
 - how you expect to benefit from this summer school
 - your experience (if any) with statistics using R
 - your level of English skills

The summer school committee will select 12 students.

Extended application deadline

12 March 2022 – for Romanian candidates only

Course costs and funding

Accommodation will be provided at no cost, and travel expenses will be reimbursed after the summer school. There is no course fee.

Funding is provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the framework of the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship endowed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

For further information please contact Nina Becker (nina.becker@idiv.de) .