

We offer 2 PhD Positions in Ecology of Tropical Birds



Position description

We are looking for 2 PhD students (related MSc. and Bc. theses will be opened) in ecology of tropical birds. Both PhD positions are part of the project: "Functional determinants of geographical gradients in avian diversity in sub-Saharan Africa (2011-2015)", funded by the Czech Science Foundation. In the project, we investigate the relationship between geographical variation in functional traits and species richness of birds on the background of environmental conditions. Functional traits of birds (e.g. morphology, feeding strategy or reproductive parameters) reflect the way in which the environment influences the individual (how is the species adapted for particular environment). On the other hand, they determine the role of the species in the ecosystem. Environmental characteristics such as temperature, humidity or vegetation structure have been shown to be strong determinants of geographical variation in species richness. However, mechanisms by which environment affects species richness still remain unclear. We intend to describe ecological specializations and ecological space use in avian species inhabiting tropical forests along an altitudinal gradient. The field work will be carried out in Cameroon (West-Central Africa).

Requirements

We are looking for an enthusiastic person, who is interested in evolutionary ecology of birds, with excellent organizational skills, able to work independently as part of the larger team. The field work will be carried out under harsh tropical conditions. Experiences with field work in the tropics, knowledge of bird identification in the field and active knowledge of French are advantageous.

Appointment

Starting date is October 1st 2011. The appointment will be for 4 years with the stipend 6000 CZK (in the 1st year) plus 6000 CZK gross salary per month.

Information

Additional information about the PhD (as well as MSc. and Bc.) positions is available upon request from David Hořák (horakd@centrum.cz). More general information about the Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague can be found on our website: <https://portaltest.natur.cuni.cz/biologie-en/ecology>.

PhD application

Please send your application including a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, a summary of the MSc. thesis, and names of two referees to David Hořák at Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Viničná 7, 128 44 Praha 2, Czech Republic; preferably by email to horakd@centrum.cz.

The closing date for applications is March 31st 2011, and the interviews will take place during April.

