



Job opportunity: post-doctoral position



Cooperative interactions among plants, unnoticed ecological processes in plant communities

We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher to work on understanding the mechanisms driving positive interactions between plants mediated by nutrient transfer, basically Nitrogen (N), and searching for general patterns in this unnoticed ecological process in plant community ecology.

We combine a wide diversity of techniques, both in field and greenhouse experiments, to assess the ecological implications of nutrient transfer among plants using stable isotopes as tracers, combining ecological monitoring with phylogenetic and network analyses to assess potentially general patterns in N transfer. A postdoc position at Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación (CIDE, CSIC-UV-GVA) is an excellent opportunity to advance analytical skills, and develop a career in a kind and stimulant environment. The following links provide more information about the Research institute (<https://www.csic.es/es/investigacion/institutos-centros-y-unidades/centro-de-investigaciones-sobre-desertificacion>) and the project leader (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=e-dAeDEAAAAJ&hl=es>).

Context

Plants can exchange resources, potentially covering plants' demands during periods of scarcity. We will explore general patterns and temporal variation in the plant-plant nitrogen (N) transfer, and test whether it can result in reciprocal benefits between plant species. Field ^{15}N labelling experiments have been performed to measure ^{15}N transferred between neighbor plants in different pairs of plant species with a range of similarity in their temporal N demand. A deep exploration of this process, in which the post-doc will be involved, will aim to assess whether this transfer can cover plants' demands of N during periods of scarcity, resulting in reciprocal benefits among species.

Skills

We look for a candidate that is highly motivated, hardworking and creative, with a genuine interest in community ecology and science. All the data required has been already collected in field experiments, and thus the main task will be to get familiarized with the specific bibliography, perform statistical analyses and prepare manuscripts. Therefore, critical thinking, synthesis capacity and analytical skills are a must, as well as fluency with manuscript writing.



Job opportunity: post-doctoral position



In addition, she/he will have the following general required qualifications:

- A PhD diploma in the field of ecology;
- Excellent analytical skills in R;
- Demonstrated experience in writing scientific articles
- Good level of English (spoken and written), and some knowledge of Spanish is desired.
- She/he is expected to work as an independent, autonomous researcher, with an ability and interest to work in other collaboration options in the team.

Job conditions

- Hosted at the Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación, Moncada-Valencia (Spain)
- Contract time: 12 months
- Expected starting date: 03/10/2022
- Net salary per month: 2 164€ (x 14 annual payments: 30 306 € per year)

How to apply?

Please send the following documents by email to Alicia Montesinos: ali.montesinos@gmail.com , before the 15th of September 2022.

- Motivation letter.
- CV with detailed information on your education, scientific career, skills, list of publications.
- Include at least two reference persons (e.g., prior research supervisors) familiar with your qualifications, together with e-mail addresses.