

Masters Student Thesis Opportunity

How important are pollinators really for plants? Assessing plant dependence on pollinators

Background

Pollination is the medium of reproduction and adaptation in flowering plant species. However, plant species vary in their dependence on pollinators exhibiting extensive differences in mating systems and their requirement of pollinator vectors to reproduce. In addition, pollinator dependence may vary in time and depend on how many visits a flower receives and whether the plant has enough resources to reproduce.



Methods

We will conduct experiments on studying variation in visitation by pollinators across different flowers to understand how increased visitation affects reproductive success in plant species of different pollinator dependence (e.g. autogamous, self-compatible, and self-incompatible). Opportunities in the project also involve the flexibility to ask deeper questions related to the reproductive ecology of plants which can be discussed with the supervisor.

Thesis involves: Field work, lab work, and data analysis

Start date: April 2025 with field work throughout summer

Student can expect supervision and guidance during all aspects of thesis.

If interested, contact Dr. Nick Rosenberger (nick.roseneberger@nature.uni-freiburg.de) with your CV and write shortly about your interest in the project.