



UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO
Departamento de Biología de Organismos y Sistemas
Catedrático Rodrigo Uría s/n, 33006
Oviedo, Spain

Ph D open position in Plant population dynamics, Ecological modeling and Global change

We are looking for a Ph.D. candidate to study tree population dynamics under global change scenarios. She/he will be integrated in a group of empirical and quantitative ecologists led by Daniel García (<http://www.unioviedo.es/danielgarcia/>) at the University of Oviedo (Spain). The group is largely experienced on the study of the role of plant-animal interactions as drivers of tree demography and forest regeneration. The position will be framed within the recently granted project entitled "Ecosystem services under global change: linking plant-frugivore assemblages to seed dispersal along anthropogenic gradients" funded by National Programme of R&D of Spain (for more information, see <http://www.unioviedo.es/danielgarcia/pdfs/SeedService.pdf>). The Ph.D. candidate will be co-advised by Javier Rodríguez (<http://sites.google.com/site/jvrrodriguez/>) and Daniel García.

Description – The Ph.D. candidate will study the population dynamics of fleshy-fruited, bird-dispersed trees in the highly fragmented secondary forests of the Cantabrian range (NW Iberian peninsula). Namely, she/he will 1) determine the broad and fine-scale spatial distributions of tree recruits and the biotic and abiotic factors affecting tree recruitment (by using already available data and new field data sets); 2) analyze process-oriented patterns of the tree population dynamics (by using point-pattern analysis and spatially-explicit, individual-based population models, all based on a comprehensive, spatially-explicit, multi-year data base); and 3) simulate tree population dynamics under different realistic global-change scenarios of increased habitat loss and fragmentation, disperser extinction, and over-browsing (by simulations based on the previous population models).

Requirements and profile – The research will have its theoretical settings in the fields of Population Biology, Community Ecology and Landscape Ecology, and, from its early development, it will require a quantitative background (i.e. application of mathematical and statistical tools) for modeling ecological processes across time and space. Thus, the ideal candidate SHOULD have a) a B.Sc degree in Biology, Forestry or Environmental sciences, b) a M.Sc degree in Ecology with a demonstrated competence in quantitative approaches in ecology (modeling, statistical inference, etc), c) interest in forest and landscape ecology. Due to practical reasons, she/he should also have e) Driving license, and f) Good oral and written communication skills in English and basic knowledge of the Spanish language. In any case, the successful candidate MUST have a) a B.Sc degree finished AFTER 1st January 2008 b) a valid passport.

Benefits and additional details – The open position is framed within the last call FPI Programme from the Spanish Government. The position will last four years (approx. starting date: July 2012), with an approx. net monthly salary of 1100€. The fellowship also includes yearly short stays (>2 months) in abroad research centers. It is also expected that the candidate will publish his work in international journals and attend scientific meetings abroad.

Before to apply, please send an e-mail with CV and include a brief description of your practical experience and grades, publications if any, and a brief statement of scientific interests (no more than one page). Submit such information by e-mail to Daniel García (danielgarcia@uniovi.es) and Javier Rodríguez (rodriguezpjavier@uniovi.es). Applications will be processed through the web portal of the Spanish Science Ministry (<http://www.micinn.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.d20caeda35a0c5dc7c68b11001432ea0/?vgnnextoid=8da5b9746e160210VgnVCM1000001034e20aRCRD>). The forms to apply for the scholarship will be open at the first or second week on February 2012. See the link for the exact dates for this call, to be soon detailed.