



PhD position Wageningen University (The Netherlands)

Life history evolution in livebearing fish

Job description

A PhD position is available in Bart Pollux's research group in the Experimental Zoology group, Department of Animal Sciences at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. The aim of this project is to study life history evolution in natural populations of ecologically divergent live-bearing fishes in Costa Rican rivers. The project will quantify the relationships between local environmental conditions and reproductive strategy (placentation, superfetation, polyandry). This will then be linked to the fish's physiological performance and fitness during gestation. This project will use an integrated approach to life history evolution in natural populations that focuses on ecological field studies and common garden studies to quantify heritability of LH traits. Depending on the student's interest the project can be extended to include e.g. geometric morphometrics, physiological performance studies (metabolic rate, fast-start escape, sustained swimming ability) and quantification of muscle structure/function (immunohistochemistry, qPCR). The PhD candidate will join a team of four other PhD students led by Dr. Pollux that studies the evolution of reproductive adaptations in livebearing fish. The current project will take place in close collaboration with Dr. Andrew Furness (University of California Irvine, USA).

Requirements

For this interdisciplinary project we look for an enthusiastic, result-driven person with an excellent MSc degree in biology (evolutionary ecology, population ecology, life history evolution), experience with fieldwork (preferably in the tropics) and a proven interest in evolutionary questions. The candidate should have excellent research and communication skills, be creative and independent (yet at the same time a team player) and be proficient in English (both oral and written). Experience with Matlab (modeling) and SAS or R (statistics) and the ability to speak Spanish are considered an additional advantage.

Conditions of employment

We offer a fully funded 4-year PhD position (1.0 FTE) to undertake research on life history evolution in livebearing fish within the Experimental Zoology group at the Animal Science Department of Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Initially, we offer a temporary position for a period of 1.5 year, with an extension of 2.5 years after successful performance. Gross salary per month is very competitive, increasing from € 2.174,- in the first year up to € 2.779,- in the fourth year, for a fulltime appointment.

Additional information

For further information, please contact Dr. Bart Pollux (bart.pollux@wur.nl; b.pollux@gmail.com; www.bartpollux.nl). **The application deadline is Wednesday 6 July 2016.** The preferred starting date is 1 September 2016. Applications should include a letter of motivation, CV and names of three references. **Please send application materials directly to bart.pollux@wur.nl.**