

International
research network



Field research opportunity for students

Biological control & population dynamics of invasive ragweed

2-6 months in Mar-Nov 2016 @ University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Organisations involved

- Host: Ecology&Evolution, University of Fribourg, Switzerland (Suzanne Lommen & Heinz Müller-Schärer)
- CABI, Switzerland (Benno Augustinus & Urs Schaffner)
- Radboud University Nijmegen (Jongejans & Hallmann)
- Many collaborators of our international research network on ragweed (SMARTER)

Background

Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), originally from North America, is an important invasive alien plant in Europe. It causes increasing problems in human health and agriculture. Whereas biological control has been successfully implemented to control *Ambrosia* elsewhere, this is not applied in Europe. The recent [accidental introduction](#) of a potential biocontrol agent, the ragweed leaf beetle *Ophraella communa* in Switzerland and Italy, requires the rapid evaluation of this species.

Topic

We investigate the potential benefit of the beetle by quantifying the impact on [Ambrosia population dynamics](#) and pollen production, assessing beetle development and performance. We also examine risks for other plants. Your focus will be discussed, and can extend towards **entomology** or **demographic modelling**.

Activities

- Several weeks of intense field work in Switzerland, Italy and France (staying on-site)
- Rearing, monitoring, sampling plants and insects
- Laboratory experiments & analyses
- Data processing

Practicalities

Period: Mar-Nov 2016

Duration: 2 – 6 months

Requirements: high motivation, flexibility, driving licence, no hayfever, good knowledge of English

Finances: housing in Fribourg & all expenses at field work are covered

Study: students can discuss possibilities to perform this as an internship, thesis or capita selecta in Biology

More information

[Ambrosia research](#) at the University of Fribourg

The SMARTER network: www.ragweed.eu

Discuss possibilities: Suzanne.lommen@unifr.ch

Application

Until **15 January 2016**, by email to

Suzanne.lommen@unifr.ch

with a motivation letter, CV, names of 2 references, duration & period of your availability



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PRIORITY PAPER

***Ophraella communa*, the ragweed leaf beetle, has successfully landed in Europe: fortunate coincidence or threat?**

H MÜLLER-SCHÄRER*, S T E LOMMEN*, M ROSSINELLI†, M BONINI‡, M BORIANI§, G BOSIO¶ & U SCHAFFNER**

natuurbericht.nl

► **Kever ontdekt die hooikoortsplant ambrosia onschadelijk maakt**

Bericht uitgegeven door Allergieradar.nl op donderdag 6 februari 2014

In Zwitserland en Italië is de kever in Europa en Nederland opruim te roeien. Dit blijkt uit een onderzoek. Het is voor Europa de eerste keer dat de invasieve onkruidsoort wordt

Gefunden: Ein kleiner Käfer, der dem Unkraut den Garaus machen könnte

Heinz Müller nimmt an, dass ein Käfer der Gattung Ophraella Ambrosia erfolgreich