

PhD student Position

Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland

Molecular Evolution of Scent Production in Petunia

Position	PhD student
Starting date	The position is available immediately
Project duration	3 years
Salary	According to the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation
Project description	<p>The genus <i>Petunia</i> comprises closely related species with different pollination syndromes. <i>P. axillaris</i> has white, scented flowers and is pollinated by nocturnal hawkmoths. Hummingbird-pollinated <i>P. exserta</i> flowers are red, non-scented and differ in floral morphology. We are interested in the molecular-genetic basis of the evolutionary shift between these pollination syndromes. The project will focus on the evolution of loss and gain of scent production (see Klahre et al. <i>Curr Biol</i> 21: 730, 2011). The successful applicant will undertake the molecular identification of the genes(s) underlying a major scent QTL involved in the shift from moth to hummingbird pollination syndromes. Techniques include classical and molecular genetics, high-throughput transcriptomics and bioinformatics. In addition, pollinator choice assays with near isogenic lines will be performed under controlled laboratory conditions as well as in the natural habitat.</p>
Requirements	MSc in molecular genetics, quantitative genetics or molecular ecology. Strong background in bioinformatics is an asset.
Application	The single pdf file should include curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and transcripts, motivation letter and contact details of three references.
Deadline for application	Applications will be accepted until June 15, 2012.
Inquiries and address of application	Prof. Cris Kuhlemeier Institute of Plant Sciences Altenbergrain 21 CH-3013 Bern tel. +41 31 631 4913 e-mail cris.kuhlemeier@ips.unibe.ch http://www.botany.unibe.ch/deve/research/projects/pollinator.php