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# PhD student in Butterfly Evolutionary Ecology

Stockholm

Ref. No. SU FV-1630-23

at [the Department of Zoology](#). Closing date: 19 May 2023.

The Department of Zoology is a vibrant international community, consisting of five interactive and collaborative divisions: Ecology, Ethology, Functional Morphology, Population Genetics, and Systematics and Evolution. The advertised PhD will be part of the Division of Ecology. The PhD position is in the group of Professor Rhonda Snook. Snook's lab studies the evolutionary ecology of reproduction and underlying genetics of adaptation and plasticity. We are a vibrant and welcoming group that consists of PhD students, postdocs and fellows studying a variety of questions, from phenotypic and genotypic consequences of sexual selection and sexual conflict, to speciation, to abiotic and biotic effects on reproduction.

## **Project description**

A 4-year fully funded PhD position is available in the Snook lab focused on the ecological and evolutionary consequences of climate warming on natural populations of several European butterfly species. Negative effects of warming on reproductive processes are well-known but incorporating these effects into models forecasting responses to climate change are relatively rare.

The project aims to quantify the fitness effects of increasing heat using multiple pairs of butterfly species adapted to different environments, and determine evolutionary potential via local adaptation among populations of these species. By measuring reproductive traits that are affected by heat stress, we can develop field-based assays assessing natural occurring heat-induced sterility in wild populations. These lab and field based empirical results will be used, along with citizen science monitoring data and climate data, in ecological models forecasting future climate change responses. This work compliments and expands ongoing work in the Snook lab using *Drosophila*.

The research for this project will be composed of both laboratory thermal manipulation experiments, measurements of behavioural and physiological traits, and field work to sample replicated populations (across Sweden and Spain), along with analyses considering citizen science population monitoring data and long term climate data. There is some scope for the student to develop additional experiments that complement the proposed research.

### **Qualification requirements**

In order to meet *the general entry requirements*, the applicant must have completed a second-cycle degree, completed courses equivalent to at least 240 higher education credits, of which 60 credits must be in the second cycle, or have otherwise acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or elsewhere.

In order to meet *the specific entry requirements*, the general syllabus for doctoral studies in the field of Ecology stipulates that applicants must have completed a research degree (e.g. Master's) or have passed at least 120 hp (2 years) of biological studies, including an approved independent project of at least 30 hp at advanced level ("examensarbete") within ecology or a related subject. The qualification requirements must be met by the start of your employment

If you are uncertain about whether your qualifications met the entry requirements, you should still apply and we will determine whether you are eligible.

### **Selection**

The selection among the eligible candidates will be based on their capacity to benefit from the training and whether the above referenced requirements and preferred attributes are met. Additional general criteria used to assess PhD potential is: the candidates' documented knowledge in a relevant field of research, written and oral proficiency in English, the capacity for analytical thinking, the ability to collaborate, as well as creativity, initiative, and independence. The assessment will be based on previous experience and grades, the quality of the degree project, references, relevant experience, interviews, and the candidate's written motivation for seeking the position.

We are looking for candidates with experience in experimental and/or field work using butterflies and excellent analytical skills. Having a valid driver's license is also required. The working language of the lab is English. Start date is flexible but ideally someone who could be in place by August. However, the priority is for the strongest candidate so even if you cannot start then, consider applying if you met the other requirements. You must have a valid MSc or equivalent before starting the PhD position. The application will require contact details for 2-3 references along with a 2 page maximum cover letter detailing your previous research and specific

interest in this project. *It is strongly recommended that you read relevant literature around the project goals and motivate your cover letter accordingly.*

Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University are available at: [www.su.se/rules and regulations](http://www.su.se/rules_and_regulations).

### **Terms of employment**

Only a person who will be or has already been admitted to a third-cycle programme may be appointed to a doctoral studentship.

The term of the initial contract may not exceed one year. The employment may be extended for a maximum of two years at a time. However, the total period of employment may not exceed the equivalent of four years of full-time study.

Doctoral students should primarily devote themselves to their own education, but may engage in teaching, research, and administration corresponding to a maximum of 20 % of a full-time position.

Please note that admission decisions cannot be appealed.

Stockholm University strives to be a workplace free from discrimination and with equal opportunities for all.

### **Contact**

For more information, please contact Professor Rhonda Snook, [rhonda.snook@zoologi.su.se](mailto:rhonda.snook@zoologi.su.se).

### **Union representatives**

Ingrid Lander (Saco-S), telephone: +46 708 16 26 64, [saco@saco.su.se](mailto:saco@saco.su.se), Alejandra Pizarro Carrasco (Fackförbundet ST/OFR), telephone: +46 8 16 34 89, [alejandra@st.su.se](mailto:alejandra@st.su.se), [seko@seko.su.se](mailto:seko@seko.su.se) (SEKO), and PhD student representative, [doktorandombud@sus.su.se](mailto:doktorandombud@sus.su.se).

### **Application**

Apply for the PhD student position at Stockholm University's recruitment system. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete in accordance with the instructions in the advertisement, and that it is submitted before the deadline.

Please include the following information with your application

- Your contact details and personal data
- Your highest degree
- Your language skills
- Contact details for 2–3 references

and, in addition, please include the following documents

- Cover letter
- CV – degrees and other completed courses, work experience and a list of degree projects/theses
- Degree certificates and grades confirming that you meet the general and specific entry requirements (no more than 6 files)
- Degree projects/theses (no more than 6 files).

The instructions for applicants are available at: [How to apply for a position](#).

**You are welcome to apply!**

Stockholm University contributes to the development of sustainable democratic society through knowledge, enlightenment and the pursuit of truth.

**Closing date:** 19/05/2023

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