A PhD position on ECO-EVO-DEVO dynamics in threespine stickleback of lake Mývatn, Iceland

Hólar University, Iceland, seeks a PhD student to participate in research supported by a Grant of Excellence (RANNIS) on the dynamics of Ecological (ECO), Evolutionary (EVO) and Developmental (DEVO) processes for origin and maintenance of biodiversity.

The phenotype is an important determinant of the dynamic interactions between ecological and evolutionary processes (eco-evolutionary dynamics) and the processes that shape biological diversity in face of environmental change. The project aims to understand the interactions between ECO, EVO and DEVO by focusing on 1) the dual role of ecology in evolution (as driver of natural selection and phenotypic plasticity), 2) the molecular mechanisms underlying phenotypic variation, and 3) the feedbacks between phenotypic change and ecosystem function. The model species in the study is threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) from lake Mývatn, Iceland. The project is led by Prof. Bjarni K. Kristjánsson (lead PI, Hólar University, Iceland) and Dr. Katja Räsänen (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Sciences, Eawag, Switzerland). It is part of international collaboration across Hólar University (Prof. Skúli Skúlason), Eawag, Switzerland (Dr. Blake Matthews), Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (Prof. Anthony R. Ives), Univ. of Iceland (Prof. Zophonías O. Jónsson) and the Mývatn research station (Dr. Árni Einarsson).

We are looking for an excellent PhD student to work on studying the consequences of phenotypic and genetic variation for ecosystem processes. The project will include both mesocosm and field experiments and is an integral part of an ongoing study which includes long-term field data, laboratory experiments, genomics and mathematical modelling. The student will be a part of an international team, and be provided with opportunities to collaborate with post-docs, students and mentors at the collaborative institutions. The student will be provided high quality training.

**Location:** The student will be based at the Department of Aquaculture and Fish Biology (DAFB - http://www.holaraquatic.is/) at Hólar University (North Iceland) and registered at the University of Iceland (Reykjavik). HU main campus is in the scenic Hjaltadalur (Skagafjörður), with offices and research laboratories for DAFB in the nearby town Sauðárkrókur. DAFB is an active research centre and the students will become part of a dynamic international team of graduate students and faculty. The rural setting and central location of HU in North of Iceland provides opportunities for outdoor activities.

**Requirements:**

- MSc degree in a relevant field (e.g. Ecology, Molecular Biology, Evolution, or Developmental Biology).
- Strong interest in evolutionary ecology
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team
- Experience in work on experiments and in the field
- A valid driving license
• Peer-reviewed publications and experience off work on animal experiments (fish in particular) is of advantage

The working language is English.

This is a 100% position for three years. **Application deadline is February 24th, 2020.** Rights and obligations follow the Act 70/1996 on the Rights and Obligations of Civil Servants.

Applications should be sent by email to ecoevodevo@holar.is. The application should include application letter, with a statement of research interests and relevant experience (max. 2 pages), *curriculum vitae* with a list of publications, copies of academic qualifications and contact information for three referees.

**For further information** contact Bjarni K. Kristjánsson (Head of the Dept. of Aquaculture and Fish Biology, Hólar University) (bjakk@holar.is) or Dr. Katja Räsänen (EAWAG, Switzerland) (katja.rasanen@eawag.ch).