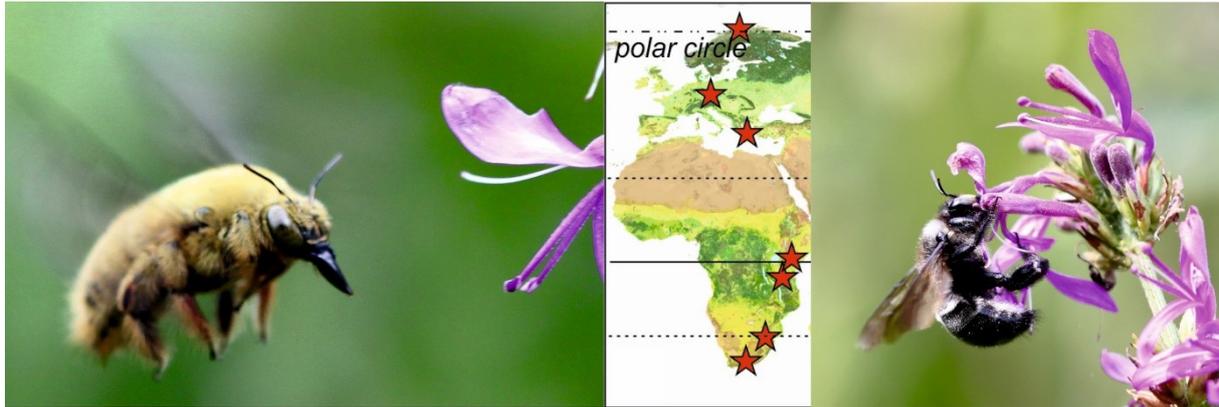


## 2-YEARS POST-DOCTORAL POSITION AT THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE, CZECHIA

### **Latitudinal patterns in specialization of pollination interactions: Metabarcoding of bee pollen loads along a cross-continental gradient.**

We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher (no more than 5 years after Ph.D. graduation) with a strong enthusiasm to answer interesting ecological questions by modern laboratory methods, who would spend two years (January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023) in the **Insect Community Ecology Group** (<http://www.insect-communities.cz/>), with a possibility of extension till 2025. The postdoctoral project will be co-funded by the JUNIOR Fund (<https://cuni.cz/UKEN-178.html>) of the Charles University, and by a project awarded to Dr. Robert Trospek (supervisor) by the Czech Science Foundation.



The project will contribute to the elementary question of ecology, biogeography and evolution: **Are niches of tropical species narrower than species in higher latitudes?** The project will perform an intensive cross-continental study of latitudinal patterns of specialisation in plant-pollinator interactions. It will combine modern NGS metabarcoding analyses of pollen from bees, the most important pollinators in terrestrial ecosystems, with a standardised observational sampling of interactions at a whole-community level. Along a long latitudinal gradient, our group has already established seven study sites from temperate and subtropical South Africa, through the Afrotropics, up to Mediterranean, temperate and subarctic European ecosystems. From each study site and study season, we will metabarcode DNA from pollen loads of bees, and compare them with the reference libraries established during the project. The results will be combined with the other parts of the project, mainly an intensive video-recording of plant-pollinator interactions and detailed information on the individual plant pollination systems and reproduction strategies, all performed by the other members of our study group (<http://www.insect-communities.cz/>). Altogether, the project will not only describe the latitudinal patterns in plant-pollinator interactions, but also crucially contribute to our understanding to the responsible mechanisms.

The post-doc will be responsible for the NGS metabarcoding of bee pollen loads, representing an up-to-date and highly sensitive method for accurate identification of all interactions within the network. She/he will be in charge of the wet lab, as well as the data analyses. We offer the opportunity of field sampling, depending on the selected applicant's preferences (i.e. the position is suitable for "lab-only" or "lab-field" persons).

**Salary:** Monthly salary, co-funded by the Junior Fund and the Junior Star projects of the supervisor, equals 70,000 CZK monthly (incl. 37% of health and social insurance), which more than sufficiently covers living expenses in Czechia (national average income has been ca. 38,000 CZK monthly).

**Funding:** The project is an integral part of the Junior STAR project funded by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, which will cover all its expenses for the field sampling and lab analyses.

**Workplace:** Insect Community Ecology Group ([www.insect-communities.cz](http://www.insect-communities.cz)), Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Czechia.

**Project supervisor:** Robert Tropek (for any questions, write to [robert.tropek@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tropek@gmail.com))

**E-mail:** [robert.tropek@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tropek@gmail.com)

**Phone:** +420 221 951 854

**Position available from:** January 1, 2022

**Deadline date for applications:** July 1, 2021

**Applicants must submit CV, publication record, motivation letter, and two contacts for possible references to [robert.tropek@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tropek@gmail.com)** (supervisor), and in a copy to [lenka.storchova@natur.cuni.cz](mailto:lenka.storchova@natur.cuni.cz) (project manager). The candidate selected by the project supervisor will prepare (in collaboration with the supervisor) a final application submitted to the University rectorate.

**More details of the JUNIOR Fund program:** <https://cuni.cz/UKEN-178.html>

**Specific requirements for the position** (*besides the general requirements of the program*):

- Strong experience with DNA metabarcoding or other NGS sequencing approaches, both wet lab and data analyses.
- Enthusiasm to answer interesting ecological questions by the modern laboratory methods.
- Ability of independent work, but also as a team member.
- Reasonable publication record.