

Master thesis opportunity

Changes in moth community composition along a tree-diversity gradient in subtropical China



Moths are essential for forest ecosystem functioning as they play a key role as herbivores, pollinators, or prey for their natural predators/ parasitoids. Furthermore, moth communities react sensibly to changes in environmental conditions, such as changes in plant community composition. However, to what extent changes in tree richness affect moth communities in forest ecosystems is poorly investigated.

The offered Master thesis aims at addressing this knowledge gap by using moth samples that were collected in 2024 along a tree diversity gradient in subtropical China. The candidate will work at the [Department of Forest Nature Conservation](#) and support an ongoing PhD research project part of the international research training group [TreeDi](#).

Tasks:

A substantial portion of the work includes lab work (under guidance):

- sorting and mounting of moths
- identifying moth specimens
- data analysis

Opportunities:

You will gain experience in lab work (techniques in specimen curation and identification of moths), scientific writing and statistical analyses.

Your profile:

- Basic knowledge of insects/ insect ecology (ideally also in moths)
- Basic knowledge in R
- Good communication skills in English.
- Motivation to work in an international working group
- Ability to work independently



If you are interested or have any questions, feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact persons:

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