

URGENT: Seeking a highly motivated candidate for a PhD study (4 years) on the effects of parasites on a wild host passerine, the house sparrow.

The NT faculty at NTNU has announced that a number of PhD candidates will be employed spring/summer 2015, and the application deadline is 18th of January 2015.

Students who want to apply have to fulfill the requirements announced (see link below). In addition, the student applicant needs a project and a supervisor at the Department of Biology, NTNU. Thus, a short description of the project has to be attached to the application.

Here is the NT-faculty link:

<http://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/108052/phd-stillinger-ved-fakultet-for-naturvitenskap-og-teknologi>

If you are highly motivated to apply for a PhD position and fulfill the requirements, but do not have a PhD project then this may be an opportunity for you:

*I currently have a very relevant PhD project for one highly motivated student that aims to investigate the influence of macroparasites on the population dynamics of a passerine host, the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Hence, I can provide the PhD project you need in order to apply for the position.*

At the Centre of Biodiversity Dynamics we have been studying the effects of parasites, in particular *Syngamus trachea* (gapeworm) on their house sparrow host. Based on the work conducted in relation to one PhD-thesis and two MSc-projects we have established knowledge of the basic mechanisms. Since 2007 we have routinely collected individual data on the prevalence and abundance of parasites in local insular house sparrow populations along the coast of northern Norway. One advantage with our study system is that we have extensive data on individual variation in annual – and lifetime – reproductive success based on genetic parentage analyses in several house sparrow populations. This enables us to address fundamental hypotheses on co-evolutionary mechanisms between parasite and host, as well as the effects of parasites on host population dynamics. Briefly, the study will focus on 2 parasite species, and how they (separately, and jointly) affect vital life history parameters (e.g. survival rates and reproductive rates) of the host species (the house sparrow). We will also investigate the heritability of resistance, and the potential role of diversity in MHC on this.

You will be part of a vital research group (“House sparrow project”) that includes several professors, researchers, post docs, and PhD students at the Centre of Biodiversity Dynamics (www.ntnu.edu/cbd). The study will be conducted in island populations along the beautiful coast of Helgeland in northern Norway.

Please contact me as soon as possible, and no later than 12. January if you:

1. find this PhD project interesting
2. Have finished your MSc-degree, and
3. fulfill the requirements specified in the announcement (see link above)

Please contact me on email; Thor.Harald.Ringsby@bio.ntnu.no with a short presentation of your background and motivation for applying the position (including a full CV)

Best regards

Thor Harald Ringsby, Associate Professor (PhD)
Centre for Biodiversity Dynamics (CBD),
Department of Biology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Trondheim, Norway