

2 BACHELORTHESIS/INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

DISTRIBUTION OF HERPETOFAUNA IN TRADITIONAL WOOD-PASTURES IN TRANSYLVANIA

Traditional cultural landscapes are known to host an important part of the biodiversity present in rural agricultural landscapes (Eriksson, 2021). In the case of reptiles and amphibians, traditional wood-pastures maintain some of the vegetation and water-related structures that result beneficial for them (Hartel and von Wehrden, 2013), and therefore, can be expected to also hold an important diversity of these taxa. Thus, the main aim of this project, is to evaluate the ecological benefits that traditional cultural landscapes represent for herpetofauna by understanding how are species distributed in wood-pastures at different spatial scales.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Link wood-pasture type (eg. oak dominated vs. fruit trees dominated wood-pastures) with amphibian and reptile species composition.
2. Characterize species presence at different spatial ecological levels and scales including wood-pastures (sites) and within sites structures.

METHODOLOGY:

- **Field work:**

- April and May

- Based on a hierarchical sampling design:

Spatial level I: Type of wood-pasture

Spatial level II: type of structure within site (eg. water channel, wood-pasture, wood-pasture-forest border).

Spatial level III: type of structure and the micro-site level (eg. ditches, temporal ponds, cattle water tanks, channels border, channels water, fallen wood, open pasture).

- Visiting traditional wood-pastures in Transylvania and gathering presence data on amphibians and reptile species at the three different spatial levels mentioned above.

- **Analysis:**

- Regression

- Multivariate statistics

- Community analysis

REQUIREMENTS:

- Biologist, ecologist or related fields.

- Basic ecological knowledge, statistics knowledge and field experience are preferred but not compulsory.

- Ability and/or willingness to spend long periods working outside.

- Ability to communicate in English.

- Driving license is appreciated.

CONTACT:

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