

### 3 POSITIONS FOR BACHELOR THESIS/MASTER THESIS/INTERNSHIP

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HERPETOFAUNA IN TRADITIONAL WOOD-PASTURES IN TRANSYLVANIA Second field campaign.

We are happy to announce the second round of the Herpetofauna Project within the Junior Research Group on Traditional Cultural Landscapes!!



Traditional cultural landscapes are known to host an important part of the biodiversity present in rural agricultural landscapes (Eriksson, 2021). In relation to herpetofauna, these types of landscapes can be expected to harbor a comparatively high diversity of amphibians and reptiles, due to the presence of different vegetation and water-related structures that are beneficial for them (Hartel and von Wehrden, 2013). Ancient oak wood-pastures in Transylvania are among the most important traditional landscapes in Europe, and as socio-ecosystem, face threats due to expansion of intensive agriculture and land abandonment (Moga et al., 2016). Hence, research focused on the biodiversity these traditional landscapes harbor is key to understand their ecological and conservation value.

#### OBJECTIVES:

The main aim of this project is to understand how factors at different spatial levels determine the diversity and structure of herpetofaunal communities in traditional wood pastures in Transylvania. Specific objectives include:

1. Linking wood-pasture at different elevation classes with presence and abundance of amphibian and lizard species.
2. Characterize species presence and abundance at different spatio-ecological levels including wood-pastures (sites) and within sites structures.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

- **Field work:**

-April and May

-Based on a hierarchical sampling design:

**Spatial level I: Three elevation classes (300-400m, 400-500m, 500-600m)**

**Spatial level II: Oak wood-pastures within each elevation class.**

**Spatial level III: Types of structures within wood-pastures (eg. ditches, temporal natural ponds, cattle formed ponds, fallen wood, open pasture, grown pasture).**

Field work consists of visiting traditional wood-pastures in Transylvania and gathering presence data and individuals' counts data on amphibian and reptile species across the spatial levels mentioned above. This includes sampling data on amphibians in different types of water bodies and on lizards along determined transects, gathering vegetation data and gathering data on abiotic factors.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

-Student of biology, ecology or related fields.

-Basic ecological knowledge.

-Knowledge on statistical analysis preferred but not compulsory for bachelor thesis and internship. Required for master thesis.

-Field work experience is preferred but not compulsory.

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

-Availability of at least 3 weeks to join the team in the field.

-Social and communication skills necessary for living and working in group.

-Ability and/or willingness to develop shared communal household tasks (eg. cooking)

-Driving license is appreciated.

-Language: German or English

## **CONTACT:**

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