

PhD position in plant ecology and ecophysiology in Mediterranean shrublands and forests

TOPIC: «Functional diversity of plant water and nutrient use strategies in Mediterranean and dryland ecosystems»

We are seeking a motivated PhD candidate to join a new research project on plant ecology and ecophysiology supervised by José I. Querejeta and Iván Prieto at the Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura (CEBAS-CSIC).

The CEBAS-CSIC is a research center offering a multidisciplinary, international, and high-level research atmosphere dealing with different topics on plant ecology, ecophysiology, soil ecology and agricultural sciences. The researcher will study plant functional traits related to water and nutrient use strategies (e.g. leaf gas exchange, leaf and stomatal morphology, leaf chemistry and the isotopic composition of leaves and stem and soil water) to be analyzed with climate and soil data collected in Mediterranean ecosystems. The work will combine fieldwork along an aridity gradient from semi-arid shrublands to sub-humid mountain forests (190-1300 mm precipitation) with laboratory experiments, with the goal of understanding the diversity and distribution of plant water and nutrient use strategies in Mediterranean ecosystems and their implication for ecosystem functioning.

Funding program

The position will be funded by the 2020 FPI doctoral program of the Spanish Ministry of Science, linked to the project *WATFUN – Functional diversity of plant water and nutrient use strategies in Mediterranean and other dryland ecosystems*, funded for the period 2020-2023. The successful candidate will sign a 4-year full-time contract at CEBAS-CSIC (Murcia, Spain). The position includes additional budget for research stays at leading international institutions (e.g. University of California – Berkeley or the Center for Functional Ecology, CEFE-CNRS in Montpellier) and for covering University doctoral fees.

Applications

Prospective candidates must meet the academic requirements of the predoctoral training program of the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain, which is planned to open around September-October 2020 ([Check-out here the 2019 call](#)).

Candidates must have completed a bachelor's and a master's degree (or a minimum of 300 ECTS either in BSc or in BSc + MSc studies), and must be eligible for admission in a PhD Program at a Spanish University.

Selection criteria will prioritize candidates with:

- A BSc and a MSc in Biology, Environmental Sciences or similar disciplines.
- Demonstrated research skills and experience in plant ecology and related topics.
- Willingness to conduct field work in remote areas, driver's license, experience in statistical analysis, preferably with R, fluent English and communication skills.

How to apply

Before preparing their application, potential candidates are strongly advised to contact Dr. José I. Querejeta, querejeta@cebas.csic.es and Dr. Iván Prieto (iprietoaguilar@gmail.com) in advance between **September the 1st and October the 1st, 2020**, in order to evaluate the candidates' suitability and eligibility for the position.