Postdoc position (Effects of climate extremes on microbial carbon use efficiency)

(80-100%, 2 years with a possibility of 1 year extension)

We are seeking a highly motivated and skilled individual with a PhD in soil biology (or soil science) to join the lab of Prof. Dr. Madhav P. Thakur (Head of Terrestrial Ecology Division, Institute of Ecology and Evolution) at the University of Bern in a project to investigate the interactive effects of heat extremes and drought on the carbon use efficiency (CUE) of soil microorganisms. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with Prof. Dr. Adrien Mestrot (Head of Soil Science Division, Institute of Geography). The position is funded by the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research.

This project aims to link how soil microbial diversity and microbial CUE are associated and how heat extremes and drought alter those associations. The project will be carried out in an outdoor experiment, where we simultaneously manipulate temperature and drought and are currently studying the interactions between above- and belowground diversity. The postdoctoral candidate will be responsible for adding the microbial CUE project using isotope labelling and sequencing methods in this outdoor experiment. There will also be opportunities to conduct complementary indoor experiments.

Profile of the candidate

The successful candidate has a strong background in soil microbial ecology with first-hand experience in quantifying microbial carbon use efficiency. The candidate has experience in soil biological and chemical analyses, especially with stable isotope methods. Proficiency in handling and analyzing molecular data, excellent writing skills in English, and interdisciplinary research skills are other required backgrounds.

Details and Applications

Starting date: February 1, 2024, or upon agreement. Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland. The salary ranges between 88,000 and 100,000 CHF p.a. (gross salary; ca 90-100 k US$).

Evaluation of the applications will begin on November 1, 2023, and will continue until the position is filled. Please send your application documents, including a CV, a motivation letter, and contact information of 3 references by e-mail to susanne.holenstein@unibe.ch

Please contact Prof. Dr. Madhav P. Thakur (madhav.thakur@unibe.ch) for further information.

Homepage: https://www.oeschger.unibe.ch/ and https://www.terr.iee.unibe.ch/index_eng.html