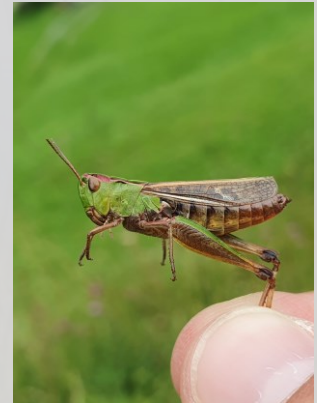


Grasshopper Biogeography



About the project

Grassland management practices are changing. Some grasslands are being abandoned, others are becoming more intensive, and some are shifting towards a more extensive management. Our research aims to explore these transformations across different biogeographic regions in Switzerland and assess their impact on biodiversity.

This MSc project focusses on the interaction between grassland management and grasshopper communities. Grasshoppers are among the most charismatic and characteristic fauna of grasslands. They serve as valuable indicators of grassland management practices. This project aims to understand the variations in grasshopper communities across biogeographic regions in Switzerland. You will have the opportunity to travel to mountainous areas, where you'll visit various meadows with different managements and conduct surveys to assess the current grasshopper communities. Following fieldwork, we will provide additional data related to the vegetation of the study sites, along with supplementary grasshopper surveys. Depending on your skills and interests, modelling approaches can be considered.

What we offer

- an excellent opportunity to develop your species ID further
- exciting field season in the Swiss mountains
- independence to develop your own innovative approaches
- engaged support by a motivated research team

Dates

Starting date: beginning of June 2024 (flexible)

Field season: July to September (continuous)

Your profile

- *No previous experience in grasshopper ID needed*
- a driving licence
- good physical condition
- basic experience in R statistical programming

Application

Please mail us a short dossier, including a half page motivation letter and your CV.

Contact

Marco Barandun, PhD student, marco.barandun@uzh.ch

Agroscope, Mountain Grassland Team, Reckenholzstrasse 191, CH-8046 Zürich