



PhD Opportunity

Individual behaviour as a buffer to climate change? linking maternal effects and environmental heterogeneity

School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

Funding: Australian Postgraduate Award plus ELITE SCHOLAR top-up
Project support - \$5 000 per year (ARC supported project)

Project Description: This project is part of an ARC funded discovery grant to Dr Erik Wapstra (UTAS), Dr Tobias Uller (Oxford University) and Professor Ido Pen (Groningen University). This project will produce research of a high international standard combining a number of key fields in evolution and ecology. Evolutionary biology is currently undergoing a major shift in focus, with maternal effects and developmental plasticity gaining a more prominent role. The project will integrate empirical and theoretical research on maternal effects in a viviparous lizard with a focus on the role of individual behaviour in buffering environmental heterogeneity and change. Furthermore, while climate change is identified as a priority area for research, Australia typically lacks the history of long-term phenological monitoring that is required to understand climate change impacts. This project will have access to long-term study sites as well as state of the art laboratories for experiments.

Who are we looking for: You will need to be competitive for an Australian Postgraduate Award (generally first class honours). You will need to enjoy fieldwork, laboratory work and have a passion for research science. A background in evolutionary biology will be key as will a desire to combine fieldwork with experimental and laboratory work.

When: Ideally, you will need to apply for an APA Scholarship by 31 Oct 2009 and be willing to start in mid 2010. Alternate start dates are available by negotiation.

More information: Please contact Dr Erik Wapstra at the University of Tasmania.

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<http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/scieng/zoo/>