



MSc Thesis Opportunity: Plant survival strategies – how do plants cope with global environmental change?

Description:

Phenotypic plasticity enables plants to cope with rapidly changing environments, yet its limits under combined stressors remain poorly understood.

This thesis explores how rising temperatures and nitrogen availability jointly shape the plasticity in plant resource-use strategies. **You will analyze plant functional traits and related characteristics in thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) genotypes grown in various temperature and nitrogen settings.** The thesis offers the opportunity to uncover trade-offs in plant resource use and interpret them in an eco-evolutionary and plant functional framework.

Requirements:

- MSc student in Ecology or Molecular Biology
- Flexible working times
- Interest in inter-disciplinary concepts

Tasks:

- Set-up and conduct a plasticity experiment in climate cabinets
- Extensive phenotyping of plant functional traits
- Data analysis with R

Start & Duration:

- Start September 2026 (flexible)
- Six months (full-time) for entire MSc thesis

What we offer:

- Work in an international research setting
- Research on the intersection of ecology and molecular functional biology
- Participation in interdisciplinary research project (CRC “Phenotypic Plasticity in Plants”)

Are you interested or have questions? Contact: Dr. Vera Hesen (vera.hesen@uni-potsdam.de)