



MSc-thesis offer

Forest disturbance and moth biodiversity

Bark beetle outbreaks and windthrow are common disturbance events in spruce dominated forests of central Europe. With climate change, disturbance events are predicted to increase in frequency. Disturbance creates light and open habitat potentially offering suitable conditions for (specialized) moths. However, the extent of colonization and the community composition in disturbed areas are not fully understood for many insect groups, and depend on post-disturbance management. Isolation of disturbed forest patches can delay recolonization of specialized moth species. Certain habitat features and species traits might influence colonization.

We aim to quantify the occurrence and abundance of moths in the Harz National park and neighboring, commercially used forests, both on disturbed and undisturbed sites with varying management. A focus of this Master thesis will be on the connectivity and habitat quality of disturbed patches and their potential to host specialized moth species of light forests.

We are looking for a MSc student, ideally but not necessarily with some knowledge in moth ecology and surveys. **Fieldwork** will be conducted from June to August 2021 in Harz mountains and will comprise nocturnal light trapping in a standardized survey design.

Interested? Please send your **CV and a short motivation letter** that discusses any previous experiences related to the topic to Anne Graser, Department of Conservation Biology (anne.graser@biologie.uni-goettingen.de), by **28 February 2021**.