

## Master Thesis Project



### Arctic biodiversity: bottom-up control of insect diversity in the low-Arctic tundra

Now that the northern Siberian coast has become seasonally ice-free its vegetation is projected to change rapidly, with so far unknown consequences for insect diversity that depends on the vegetation. At the same time, the area will be exposed to increasing economic interest, leading to an additional threat for the biodiversity. Yet, we do not know how the different vegetation types of the low-Arctic tundra affect insect diversity and the factors determining it. Therefore, the overall aim of this master project is to identify how the different vegetation types of the low-Arctic tundra shape insect communities. Furthermore, we aim to characterize the ecosystem functions the different insect communities provide and how they potentially are threatened given further global change.

For the fieldwork of your project you will be stationed on a field station at the Kytalyk nature reserve (70.82N, 147.47E) in northeast Siberia (Russia) for approximately two months. This is one of the field sites of the URPP Global Change and Biodiversity (<https://www.gcb.uzh.ch/en.html>) of the University of Zürich. You will work in a team consisting of several PhD students, MSc-students, and field assistants. You should have a strong interest in Community Ecology and Global Change Biology. Also, you should enjoy doing fieldwork in extreme conditions, working in a team, and learning about new cultures. Ideally, the MSc project starts early 2020.

For application and additional information, please contact PD Dr. Eva Knop ([www.knoplabor.ch](http://www.knoplabor.ch); [eva.knop@ieu.uzh.ch](mailto:eva.knop@ieu.uzh.ch)) or Prof. Dr. Gabriela Schaepman-Strub ([gabriela.schaepman@ieu.uzh.ch](mailto:gabriela.schaepman@ieu.uzh.ch)).



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