

OPEN POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

MARINE MICROZOOPLANKTON ECOLOGY

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Full time Postdoctoral fellowship

Location: Laboratoire d'Océanographie Biologique BP 44 – F66651 Banyuls sur mer. France

Group: UMR 7621, Team "Diversity and functioning of pelagic ecosystems". Objectives and facilities are described at: http://www.obs-banyuls.fr/UMR7621/thematiques/ecosystemes_pelagiques/

Status: 24 months. The position will start in January 2008.

Gross Salary: 3,400 Euros per month.

PURPOSE

This position is proposed in the framework of a national project entitled CHACCRA, "Climate and Human induced Alterations in Carbon Cycling at the River-sea connection". The overall scientific objective of the project is to formulate a first detailed model of the carbon cycle at the Rhone river-sea interface (NW Mediterranean Sea) in order to test the sensitivity of the Rhone system to climate and anthropogenic changes.

In this context, our team is more particularly concerned with the role of the Rhone plume ecosystem in the transformation and transfer of the particulate and dissolved, organic and inorganic, riverine input to the benthic system. The functioning of the microbial loop in river plumes involves hetero and mixotrophic ciliates as well as nanoflagellates for the control of both primary and bacterial production and Organic Matter recycling. In order to assess the influence of grazing processes in the organic carbon cycles, a specific attention will be paid to the dynamics of the microzooplankton. The specific objective is to build a consistent data base to fulfil biogeochemical model requirements and parameterisation as well as to simulate the impact of external forcing induced by climate change. These data will be collected both from field and laboratory experiments.

The candidate will be entirely in charge of the study of the microzooplankton compartment, including determination of grazing activities, metabolism (ingestion, egestion, respiration), population dynamic and taxonomy. He will organise laboratory experiments to evaluate the response of different species of microzooplankton to simulated changes in environment (e.g., particle load, nutrients, temperature) and the consequences for the microbial loop functioning. He will participate to the field campaign in May 2008 (15 days). He will have to interact closely with modellers in the laboratory and in the research project team, in order to optimise the link between model simulation requirements and observations.

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD or higher degree or equivalent qualification on microbial ecology.

Specialisation in microzooplankton ecology.

Evidence of publishing research in peerreviewed journals.

Proven skills in grazing experiments and metabolism studies.

Experience in modelling the planktonic microbial food web would be of advantage.

Excellent interpersonal communication skills and aptitude for consultancy and teamworking.

Please send a detailed CV, a onepage research project related to the above description and 2 references (name, address, email) before 15 September 2007 to:

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