

# Pro gradu/Masters projects in insect-plant ecology



## Pollination ecology of *Veronica spicata*

The perennial plant *Veronica spicata* is dependent on a community of insect pollinators for reproduction. I am looking for a student to study the pollination ecology of this plant from both the point of view of the insects and the plant. On the insect side we are interested in learning what species visit and pollinate *V. spicata*, and how that insect community varies with habitat connectivity in Åland, Finland. On the plant side we would like to know if seed production is pollinator limited, and if that is related to habitat connectivity.

The project would be designed in spring of 2016 and the field work would take place mid June to mid August in Åland, Finland. A small stipend for two months work is available, as well as a place to stay in Åland.



## Herbivore community associated with *Veronica spicata*

*Veronica spicata* is a long lived perennial plant that is chemically defended against herbivory. Nonetheless insects do eat it! I am looking for a student to study the herbivore community associated with *V. spicata* in Åland, Finland. The student would determine what the insect community is and how it varies with habitat connectivity or other environmental factors. Potentially the student would also determine which herbivores strongly affect plant fitness (approximated by seed production).

The project would be designed in spring of 2016 and the field work would take place in the summer in Åland. A small stipend for two months work is available, as well as a place to stay in Åland.

For general information about the research group and research system see

<http://www.helsinki.fi/science/metapop/index.htm>

and

<http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/sdv2/www/people/>

If you are interested or have questions, contact Saskya at

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