We seek a highly motivated, independent researcher interested in developing her/his own research programme within a Czech Science Foundation project focused on phylogenomics and comparative biogeography of tropical-alpine plants. The successful applicant will join the interconnected research teams of Roswitha Schmickl (https://lab-alliance.natur.cuni.cz/plantevocytogen/people-research) and Filip Kolář (https://botany.natur.cuni.cz/ecolgen). She/he will also collaborate with other specialists in biodiversity of the target regions and in methodologies, both within our institution (Peter Sklenář; Tomáš Fér) and internationally (Christian Brochmann, University of Oslo; Tomasz Suchan, University of Toulouse; Peter Schönswetter, University of Innsbruck).

**Project details:** Species richness and endemism of the tropical-alpine floras of South America and Africa have attracted botanists since the early 19th century. Evolutionary mechanisms that generated such diversity, however, still remain largely unknown. The main goal of this research is to compare the timing of plant radiations in tropical-alpine habitats, detect key evolutionary processes involved in these radiations, particularly those related to Pleistocene climate oscillations, and assess their relative contribution to the origin of plant diversity in these biodiversity hotspots. To answer these questions, the core of the project will be analysis of intra- and inter-specific DNA sequence variation gathered using the state-of-the-art methods (target capture, hybridization-RAD sequencing) across several recently diversified plant genera, and interpreting them in a comparative manner using available environmental and trait data. The candidate is expected to be fully involved in the overall project design and lead the analytical part with opportunities to design spin-off projects. The project allows an immediate start with phylogenomic analyses, as a majority of samples are already collected and partly (one genus) also sequenced. For more info see https://botany.natur.cuni.cz/ecolgen/node/59.

**Requirements:**
- innovative thinking, enthusiasm for evolutionary biology
- willingness to collaborate and lead an independent research programme
- experience in phylogenetics/phylogenomics and/or comparative biogeography
- Ph.D. education in evolutionary biology or related fields (the Ph.D. degree is not required at the starting date)
Optional:
• involvement in teaching relevant courses in methodology/biogeography
• participation in fieldwork in Neotropical mountains in 2020
• support in seeking additional self-funded projects in national (e.g. Junior projects within The Czech Science Foundation) and international funding schemes (e.g. Marie Curie, EMBO fellowship) in order to strengthen their position for gaining research independence

We offer:
• competitive salary, at the average for the city of Prague (1,500€)
• work in a young, dynamic and international environment of the Department, situated in the inspiring historical center of Prague
• co-supervision of a Ph.D. student enrolled within the same project
• research stays in collaborating labs (University of Oslo; University of Innsbruck)

Questions and applications (CV + half-page motivation letter + contact information for two references) should be sent to Roswitha Schmickl (roswitha.schmickl@natur.cuni.cz). Review of applications will begin on 20.1.2020 and will continue until the position has been filled. The position is available from March 2020.