

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MASTER THESES IN AMPHIBIAN ECOTOXICOLOGY – SPRING / SUMMER 2014

The impact of pesticides on amphibians has become an issue of major concern for conservationists and environmental agencies. The EU legislation has recently added amphibians to the list of organisms whose sensitivity must be considered in pesticide risk assessment conducted before a product can be placed on the market. The list of available studies with native European amphibians is still too short, and more information is required within the new legal scheme.



HERPESTI is a project financed by the European Union, through the Marie Curie actions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program, aimed at **resolving uncertainties in the status of amphibians and reptiles with regards to pesticide registration** in Europe, with a clear **applicability to industry and government sectors**.



During spring and summer 2014, several experiments will be conducted with **tadpoles of juveniles of common frog (*Rana temporaria*)** in order to characterize the mechanisms of exposure and effect of different pesticides. We offer Master students the possibility of collaborate and develop their M.Sc. Theses within this experimental work.

The proposal may include **up to three potential thesis projects** focused on:

- **Comparison of life history effects on tadpoles derived from different routes of exposure to pesticides**
- **Determination of biochemical effects of pesticides on juvenile frogs exposed through varying routes**
- **Study of the impact of pesticides on amphibian-specific constitutive immunity**



The students will **gain practical experience** on amphibian housing and husbandry, animal welfare procedures, and developmental and physiological approaches to the study of chemical toxicity on wildlife.

Interested people please **contact:**

Manuel Ortiz Santaliestra ([mortizsantaliestra@gmail.com](mailto:mortizsantaliestra@gmail.com))

Carsten Brühl ([bruehl@uni-landau.de](mailto:bruehl@uni-landau.de))