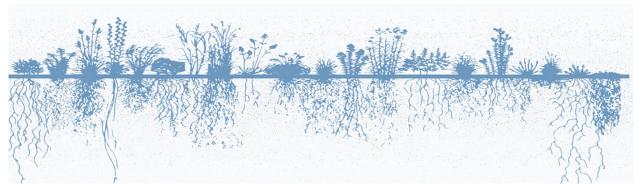# PhD position in Plant Ecology

ExploreNiche: Belowground and temporal niche partitioning along land-use gradients in grasslands

We are looking for a PhD student to join the dynamic and multi-cultural **Plant Ecology Group** **at Tübingen University, Germany.** She/he will work on a DFG-funded project within the **Biodiversity Exploratories** to study the relative importance of the belowground and temporal niche partitioning for the diversity and productivity of the grassland ecosystems and how it varies along gradients of land-use.

She/he will measure water-uptake depths using the oxygen stable isotope approach to evaluate belowground niche partitioning and couple these with existing long-term temporal data and underlying functional traits to evaluate temporal niche partitioning. The project will start with an intensive field campaign of water-uptake depths assessment in the permanent grassland plots of the Biodiversity Exploratories (May to August 2023) and continue with measurement of oxygen stable isotopes in collaboration with **Dr. Tomas Hajek** at the at the University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

We are looking for a highly motivated and curious candidate with a strong interest in ecology, able to work independently but also integrate well in a team, eager to learn, and with the drive to stay in science. The applicant should have:

• MSc in Ecology/Biology or a related field.

• Excellent knowledge in statistical analyses of data in R and the ability to quickly learn new methods.

• Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written).

• Driving license.

• Experience with handling and analyzing large data and/or conducting fieldwork and the ability to communicate in German are advantageous.

Application deadline: 20 January 2023 or until the position is filled

Starting date: 1 March 2023

Duration: 3 years

65% TVL pay scale E13

To apply, please send your application **as a single PDF file** to maria.majekova@uni-tuebingen.de, containing a CV, motivation letter (max. 1 page, including your previous experience, skills, and why you see yourself as a good candidate), and two letters of recommendation from your former supervisors, collaborators, etc.