A position for a PhD student is available at the Department of Experimental Plant Ecology (Institute for Water and Wetland Research, Radboud University Nijmegen; Prof. dr. Hans de Kroon) on a project funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (ALW-NWO) entitled “How roots interact: Unravelling the key response mechanisms of plants belowground and their effects on community productivity”. The project will be carried out in collaboration with the Multitrophic Interactions Department of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology at Heteren (Prof. dr. Wim van der Putten). The project will study root response mechanisms between species, as driven by nutrients, root exudates and soil biota using state-of-the-art chemical and molecular methodologies. These mechanisms are to explain the effects of species interactions on community productivity in mixed grassland communities. The project is well embedded in a number of other projects on plant root growth, and plant and soil community ecology, in particular with a NWO-VENI funded post-doc project on biodiversity and community effects of species-specific root interactions (Dr. ir. Liesje Mommer).

We are seeking an ecologist with interest in plant ecology, soil ecology, phytochemistry and molecular ecology. The candidate should have thorough experience with manipulative experiments under controlled conditions, using advanced analytical chemical and/or molecular techniques. We expect the candidate to master current concepts in ecology, in relation to his/her own work. Excellent skills in writing, communication and presentation are essential.

Requirements: an MSc or comparable degree in plant ecology, plant biology or molecular ecology. Good knowledge of experimental designs and statistics and demonstrated experience with molecular and/or chemical techniques. Excellent knowledge of English.

The PhD student will be appointed and based at Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, but part of the work will be carried out at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology at Heteren. The appointment will be for four years in case of a full-time appointment, following the general conditions for PhD students at Dutch Universities. The salary will be between EURO 2.042 and 2.612 gross per month on a full-time basis, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applicants should apply by writing (by e-mail) to H.deKroon@science.ru.nl. Letters of application should be written in English, and include a statement of interest, CV, publication list (if applicable) and names and addresses of at least two references.

The application can be sent to the following address, until 6 May 2009:
Radboud University, Personnel Department, Vacancy number: 62.19.09
PO Box 9010, 6500 GL Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

More information:
For more information on the vacancy you can contact:
Prof. dr. Hans de Kroon, H.deKroon@science.ru.nl, tel +31 24 3653380
Prof. dr. Wim van der Putten, W.vanderPutten@nioo.knaw.nl, tel +31 26 479 1203
Dr. ir. Liesje Mommer, L.Mommer@science.ru.nl, tel +31 24 3652401