



## **Master thesis at the BOKU IHG, working group RHEOPHYLAX**

### ***Benthic invertebrate communities in hydrologically undisturbed mountainous rivers***

The Master thesis will be conducted in the frame of the research project ÖkoResch. One aim of the project is to evaluate restoration measures in hydropoeaking affected river stretches.

#### **Aims of the thesis:**

- Assess and describe the benthic invertebrate colonization patterns of relatively undisturbed sites in Alpine rivers
- Identify and describe a characteristic distribution of indicator species and species traits in these river stretches
- Discuss results comprehensively including international literature

#### **Contact:**

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#### **Time frame:**

Literature research should start in January 2021, field work will take place from March to April (depending on the weather conditions). Data analyses and writing should be finished by the end of 2021 but depends on the student's commitment.

#### **Duties and responsibilities:**

- Comprehensive literature research
- Joining a large field campaign with an interdisciplinary team of scientists
- Laboratory work: sorting, identifying and counting
- Analysing field data using advanced statistical methods

#### **Requirements:**

- Basic knowledge and strong interest in benthic ecology
- Basic knowledge in statistics
- Interest in outdoor sampling activities and laboratory work

#### **We offer:**

- Thorough guidance and space for self-responsibilities
- Insights into applied research
- Interdisciplinary participation in project activities and exchange with partners (hydropower companies and Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism)
- Payment of all field work activities