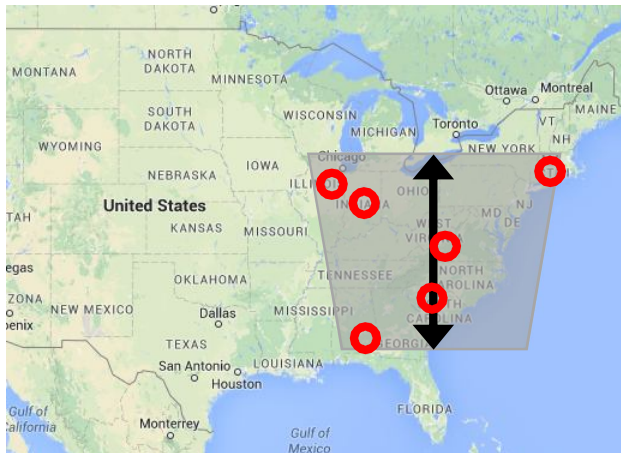# Bachelor or Master Thesis Project on Plant-Pollinator Interaction

Field Work in eastern USA from June 15 – September 15, 2015

Proposed study sites in eastern USA

Source: Reynolds et al. (2012) [1]

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Within my PhD project I am quantifying **the interaction between the native plant species *Silene stellata* (Caryophyllaceae) and its specialized pollinating seed predator *Hadena ectypa* (Noctuidae) along a north-south gradient of their range and the implications of climate change on this interaction.** I am offering a bachelor or master student to accompany my field work in summer 2015 with the potential to conduct his/her bachelor or master thesis within the project.

- Gain insight into the distinct interaction between the plant *Silene stellata* and its pollinating seed predator, the moth *Hadena ectypa* (Adult moths pollinate plants, but also lay eggs into flowers and larvae eventually feed on developing seeds/fruits)
- Observe nocturnal pollinators; sample plant material and moths; measure plant traits in the field
- Work at study sites in several eastern American states
- You would be based at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA
- Advisors in the project at the University of Maryland are: Prof. Michele Dudash & Prof. Charles Fenster
  Advisor at the University of Würzburg, Germany is: Dr. Sara Leonhardt

Benefits:
- Possibility to create bachelor or master thesis in an exceptional setting of a mutual beneficial to parasitic interaction along a gradient of about 1000 km
- Work with a novel model system
- Gain experience in ecological field experiments
- Joint publication(s)

Candidates should:
- Show high motivation for ecological field work
- Like traveling over longer distances by car and camping

For further information or any questions please contact: **Nicola Seitz, seitz@umd.edu, phone: +49-157-52114695**

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[1] Reynolds RJ; Kula AAR; Fenster CB; Dudash MR (2012): Variable nursery pollinator importance and its effect on plant reproductive success. In *Oecologia* 168 (2), pp. 439–448.
[2] http://bugguide.net/node/view/896843/bgimage (Oct. 23, 2014)