The effect of forest restoration on ant assemblages

The overarching aim of this study is to gain knowledge of how ecological restoration measures impact species assemblage composition and colonisation patterns in boreal forests. This master thesis will target ants, a taxon which dominates the invertebrate community in terms of biomass and affects many other species through mutualisms, competition and predation. However, ants are often neglected in conservation biology. By the use of a large scale field experiment you have the opportunity to test the effects on burning and gap creation including dead wood creation on ant species richness, abundance and assemblage composition. There will also be opportunities to experimentally test colonisation patterns in burned, gap cut and untreated control stands.

For a more detailed description of the restoration project see http://www.slu.se/sv/institutioner/vilt-fisk-miljo/forskning/amnesomraden/biocore/future-forest/

Contact: Therese Johansson, therese.johansson@slu.se, tel 072 2289881