AÖK3, RPC or Master Thesis opportunities for students of Ecotoxicology or Environmental Sciences

Biological pollutant transfer across ecosystems

A diverse suite of micropollutants contaminate fresh waters as a result of human activities. Contaminants such as heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals or pesticides can be accumulated by aquatic insect larvae, either passively through the surrounding water, or through their diets. During their metamorphosis into adult flying insects, these contaminant body burdens can be retained or lost. Contaminants which are retained by the adult insects can pose a risk to terrestrial predators, such as birds or bats who prey on them.

Available Project:

A microcosm study is planned to assess the retention of commonly applied insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, by the model insect species *Chironomus riparius* through various stages of its development. The measurement of these substances is performed by state-of-the-art liquid chromatography combined with mass spectrometry.

Contact:

If you are interested, please contact Alex Roodt at roodt@uni-landau.de. Please include a short description of your interests and background experience which are applicable to this project. The project is planned to start in January 2022.