



PH. D. IN ANIMAL ECOLOGY POSITION IMPACT OF MINING ACTIVITY ON BAT HABITAT QUALITY

Project name:

Eight species of bats are present in Quebec, including five species that are year-round residents. In winter, resident species hibernate in natural caves, buildings, or abandoned mines. There is therefore a long history of interaction between mining and these species. Although abandoned mines provide necessary hibernaculum, the impact of active mining infrastructure is less well understood. This project will allow us to better understand the extent of the effects of the mining installations as well as to better identify the environmental factors affecting the habitat of bats and the sites that could be interesting for the installation of roosting sites.

The objective of this PhD project is to assess the impact of mining infrastructures on the quality of bat habitats. More specifically, we will address 1) the abundance of forest cover and of food resources; 2) the level of heavy metal contamination in the bats' diet; 3) the impact of noise and light pollution on their activities. To do this, we will estimate the abundance and activity of bats and the abundance of flying insects, the bats' prey, near active and inactive terrestrial facilities, and along transects leading away from the mine site. Insects collected with traps will be used to quantify prey abundance and contamination levels. Acoustic recordings will be used to identify species and quantify activity and measure levels of noise pollution.



Financial support:

This 3 years project is fully funded at \$24,000 CAD per year and will be supervised by Gabriel Pigeon (IRF, UQAT).

Start date:

The expected start date is the 24th of August 2026.

Desired profile:

- Master's degree in biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a related field.
- Demonstrated skills in statistical analysis is an asset.
- Interest in applied ecology research and environmental issues.
- A valid driver's license is required

To apply:

We encourage all interested individuals to apply. Please submit your CV, a cover letter detailing your interest and relevant experience, and the contact information for two academic references to gabriel.pigeon@uqat.ca.



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