

Curriculum Vitae of Heinz Müller-Schärer (December 2025)

Professor emeritus (since 2021)

Département de Biologie / Ecologie et Evolution

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<https://www.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/alumni-professors-and-group-leaders/mueller-schaerer.html>

Born Thun/BE, Switzerland; Sept. 5, 1954

Nationality Swiss, Georgian



PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

1991 Habilitation in Herbivore Biology, University of Basel (Hugh Rowell & Steve Stearns)

1984 PhD in Biology, University of Bern and CABI Europe-Switzerland at Delémont, CH

1980 MSc in Biology, University of Bern, CH

1973 Matriculation, Typ B (Latin-Sciences) in Thun, CH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My main research interests are ecological and evolutionary aspects of plant-antagonist interactions, especially in the context of plant invasion and biological control.

APPOINTMENTS

2022-present Chair professor at Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, Hubei, China

2021-present Professor emeritus, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

2020–present Adjunct Professor, University of Teheran, Iran (best university in Iran according to <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/iran>)

2010-present: Visiting professor in Shiraz, Teheran, Karaj (Iran), Tbilisi (Georgia)

2008-2009 Visiting Professor at Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences and University of Wuhan, China (Jianqing Ding) and University of Marburg, Germany (D. Matthies)

2002-2003 Visiting Professor at University of Marburg, Germany (D. Matthies), Oregon State University, USA (P. McEvoy), and University of Montana (R. Callaway)

1995-2021 Professor in Ecology & Evolution, Dep. of Biology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

1990-1995 Plant ecologist/group leader at the Swiss Federal Research Station, Wädenswil, CH

1986-1990 Assistant professor, Zoological Institute, University of Basel, CH

1985-1986 Research associate (Swiss NSF PostDoc), University of California, Riverside, USA

1979-1984 Project Scientist, CABI Europe-Switzerland at Delémont, CH

1977-1978 Technical assistant in agricultural (Paraguay) and forestry projects (Perú) of the "Swiss Co-operation for Technical and Humanitarian Aid" (now SDA).

CONFERENCES Invited keynote lectures at international conferences / seminars (since 2015):

Shiraz (Iran), Hawai'i (USA), Ascona, Monte Verita (CH), Amsterdam (NL), Lyon (F), Hangzhou, China, Tbilisi (Georgia), Pontevedra (SP), Samsun (Turkey), Batumi, Tbilisi (Georgia), Jerusalem (ISR), Wuhan, Beijing (China), Berlin (G), Vienna (A), Paris (F), Brussels (B); Stony Brook (NY, USA), Marburg (G), Vertemate con Minoprio (I), Taizhou (China), Konstanz (G), Tübingen (G), Shiraz (Iran), Lyon (France), Vianden (Luxembourg), Orlando (Florida, USA), Rho/Milano (Italy), Belgrade (Serbia), Teheran (Iran), Shenzhen (China), Chios (Greece), Stellenbosch (South Africa), Beijing, Xishuangbanna (China), Göttingen (G), Engelberg (CH), Parma (I), Tsaghkadzor (Armenia), Beijing, Kunming, Xishuangbanna (China), Engelberg, Switzerland, Göttingen (Germany), Parma, Italy, Prague (Czech Republic), Shenyang (China), Belgrade (Serbia), Vodice (Croatia), Engelberg (Switzerland), Palic (Serbia), Athens (Greece) Budapest (Hungary), Bari (Italy), Wuhan (China), Shenyang (China), Igazu (Argentina), Hainan (China), Aveiro (Portugal), Hohhot, Wuhan (China).

ORGANIZATION OF SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS

Overall, I (co-) organize c. 1 international symposium/workshop plus 2 sessions at such events every second year. In addition, over the past 20 years, I (co-) organized 5+ meetings per year for national and international research programs that I chaired, or acted as PI or co-PI (SNSF-NCCR, EU-COST, EU-framework, SNSF SCOPES, SNSF-NRP, CTI, CUSO).

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES (only selected ones since 1995)

University of Fribourg

1996-1999	Member of the Faculty Commission "Formation of High school teachers"
2002-2007	President and coordinator of Studies in Environmental Sciences (Universities FR & BE)
2002-2010	Member of the committee of the statutory corporation of Professors (repr. Fac. Sciences)
2011-2013	President of the Department of Biology
2010-2014	Member of the local research commission of the Swiss National Science Foundation
2005-2021	Initiator and (Co)-Organizer of the "Fribourg Days in Ecology & Evolution"
2007-2021	Commissioner of Environmental Issues of the University

National

- Member of the Steering committee of the Forum Biodiversity, Swiss Academy of Science (2001-2011)
- Member of the "Advisory Board of the Federal Office for the Environment" (2001-2015)
- Elected annual president of the Swiss Academy of Science (2003)
- Member of the commission on Scientific Integrity of the Swiss Academies of Art & Sciences (2006-12)
- Vice-Director of the SNSF National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) 'Plant survival in natural and agricultural ecosystems' (2001-2013)
- Member of the Advisory Board CCES (Competence Centre Env. & Sustainability) ETH-Z (2010-2016)
- Member of faculty committees for structure analysis, staff recruitment and evaluation (UniBE, UniBS, ETH-Z, UniNe, UniFR, UniZH (1998-2017)

International

- Ext. expert of PhD theses (Montpellier F, Lancaster UK, Salamanca E, and Bern, Zürich, ETH-Z, U NE, U Zürich, Dijon F); of habilitation (HDR) (Angers, F); of full professorship (SUNY, NY, US; ETH-Z, Uni-Z)
- Invited expert for Swiss Ministry of Environment, and for EU agencies (Technical Committee of COST)
- Review panel USDA for all overseas stations in Biological Control, USA (2005)
- Member of the Steering committee of the Global Invasions Research Coordination Network (financed by the US National Science Foundation, <http://www.invasionsrcn.org/portal>) (2006-2013)
- Review panel of the German National Science Foundation (DFG) for a large-scale multi-year research program "Biodiversity Exploratories" (2005-present).
- Chairman und national delegate of the EU-COST-FA1203 "Sustainable Management of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Europe (SMARTER), with over 30 countries participating (2012-2017)
- Invited expert for the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) (2015-2016)
- Review panel of the German National Science Foundation (DFG) on Clusters of Excellence (panel B3 Life Sciences) (2017-present).
- Review panel of the Portuguese National Science Foundation for the Azores Regional Government, (DRCID) (2025).

FUNDING (2000-2025 only; detailed list is available))

- Swiss National Science Foundation (Section 3, NRP, NCCR, SCOPES): 3'753'641€
- Swiss Commission for Technology and Innovation: 709'091€
- Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation: 993'465€
- Federal Office for the Environment: 100'000€
- Swiss Academy of Science: 132'727€
- Federal Office for Agriculture: 40'181€
- EU funded research programs (COST, framework, H2020): 1'115'089€
- SCIE X (International exchange program): 93'564€
- British Petroleum Georgia: € 95'454
- Novartis Foundation € 55'000

Total of 7'033'268€ (7'716'535 SFr) (2001-2021)

EDITORIAL BOARDS, GRANT REVIEWING, EDITORIAL SERVICES, (only since 2000)

Member of the Editorial Board of, amongst others, Weed Research, Oecologia, New Phytologist, Biological Control, Journal of Ecology, Basic and Applied Ecology.

Reviewing grant proposals for National Science Foundations (CH, G, F, I, NL, B, CZ, SL, UK, GE, USA, Canada) and for various EU agencies (framework, COST, ESF, ERC).

Besides, I review some 20 manuscripts per year for various journals.

Editor of Special Issue for Current Opinion in Insect Science (Elsevier) on Weed Biocontrol

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

- 1995 Prince of Lichtenstein award for excellence in science
2022 Top adjunct professor in international activities, University of Teheran, Iran
2025 Recipient of the President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI), Chinese Academy of Sciences, awarded by the Wuhan Botanical Garden

SUPERVISION (cf. <http://www.unifr.ch/ecology/groupmueller/alumni> for student names and titles)

45 MSc and 23 PhD students so far; 22 Post-Doc fellows stayed in my research group at the University of Fribourg, most of them financed through my grants (1995-2019).

External expert of PhD theses (Montpellier F, Lancaster UK, Salamanca E, and Bern, Zürich, ETH-Z, Neuchâtel, U Zürich, Dijon F, Gembloux, B; Belgrade, S, Mashhad, Iran; of habilitation (Angers, F; of full professorship (SUNY, NY, USA; ETHZ).

TEACHING – UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG (before lecturing at UC Riverside, CA, USA; University of Basel, CH; University of Applied Sciences, Wädenswil; CH, ETH-Zürich, CH)

Regular lectures, practical courses and excursions in: general ecology, experimental ecology, plant populations ecology, biology, ecology and evolution of plant-antagonist interactions, systematics of flowering plants, biological weed control, biological invasions, experimental design and statistics, presenting scientific results in talks and publications.

TEACHING - INTERNATIONAL

Invited MSc courses (2-5 days) in Naples, Italy (2006, 2009), Tbilisi, Georgia (2005-2008) and Wuhan, China (2008) on "Plant Invasions and Biological Control"

Invited Doctoral school courses (3-5 days) in New Delhi, India (2006), Rennes, France (2009), Shiraz, Iran (2009), Vienna, Austria (Guest Professor; 2014), Beijing, China (2017), Teheran, Iran (2017, 2019, 2021, 2022) on "Biological Invasions", Tashkent, Uzbekistan (2008) on "Experimental Design and Analyses", "How to write a scientific publication", University of Tehran (2021, 2022), Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China (2023)

Teaching at Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, Hubei, China: Ecological Applications (2022-present); Global Change Biology ((2022-present).

PUBLICATIONS

By December 2025, Heinz Müller-Schärer authored or co-authored >300 publications in internationally refereed journals with >12000 citations, h-index = 53 (34 since 2020) i10-index 162 (google scholar), cf. <https://www.unifr.ch/bio/en/groups/mueller-schaerer/pub-mueller-schaerer.html> for full list of publications.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF MY RESEARCH (past 5 years only)

(please find recent media coverage in newspapers, radio and television on my website at <https://www.unifr.ch/bio/en/groups/mueller-schaerer/media.html>)

Television (Science programs): Leonardo (Nov. 2016; RAI, Italy), 3-sat nano (CH, A and G TV on Science, Sept 2014), Einstein (SRF 1, CH, Nov. 2014), ARD (CH, A and G TV on Science, Oct 2014). SRF News 2x in 2020.

Video: Invasion (engage, for schools; March 2015), Int. Ragweed day (June 2015), SMARTER trailer (2014),

Radio: SRF 2 (Swiss Radio; Aug. 2015, with online material), CQFD (Swiss Radio 2015, Nov. 2015), SRF 4 News, several short statements at Radio Fribourg on allergies and invasions.

Newspaper/Magazines: Alma & Georges (2018), Corriere della Sera (Italy; Oct. 2016), La Liberté (Fribourg, CH; Sept. 2015); Salzburger Nachrichten (Austria, Aug. 2015), Le Matin Dimanche (June 2014), Freiburger Nachrichten (Aug. 2013); Universitas (June 2013), Bantiger Zeitung (2019). 2020 (on our Nature Comms paper): 60 media around the world including Germany, Russia, Switzerland, UK, USA, Australia, France, Korea, Spain etc. In reaching an audience of more than 12 million highlight media included [CNN](#) (USA), [Daily Mail Online](#) and [BBC](#) (UK), [20 Minuten](#) and BZ (Switzerland), Yahoo (worldwide) etc., Der Bund (2021), aha!magazin (2021), Tages Anzeiger (2021)