ExSat1: Schynige Platte: Botanical Alpine Garden and long-term ecosystem experiment
Saturday 26 August 2017, 10.00 – 17.30 h
Guide: Prof. Dr. Markus Fischer, University of Bern

The excursion starts with a spectacular ride in a nostalgic ‘Belle Epoque’ cog train to Schynige Platte (1970 masl). We take a guided tour through the Botanical Alpine Garden http://www.alpengarten.ch/en/, which has more than 650 plant species native to the Swiss Alps. This site of research and nature conservation includes a unique long-term ecological experiment, the second oldest of its kind in the world, which started in the 1930s. Dr. Lüdi was interested in the impact of different management practices (fertilization, mowing, tilling, seeding etc.) on a mat-grass pasture and set up 340 experimental plots with different treatments. Some of the effects of these treatments on biodiversity are still visible in the long-term memory of the vegetation, 85 years after the treatment. An easy walk (100 m uphill) brings us to a crest with a spectacular panoramic view.

Itinerary
Departure: Interlaken East Railway Station, departure by train 10.05 h. Arrival at Schynige Platte 11.17 h. Return: Departure Schynige Platte 16.01 h, arrival Interlaken East 17.24 h.

Hiking equipment, food and drinks
Bring warm clothes, good shoes, sunglasses, sun protection and a small backpack for the lunch bag. A lunch bag (sandwich, fruit, chocolate and water) will be provided. Easy walk with some steps through the botanical garden on good trails. It is optional to walk to the mountain top (60 m upward) to enjoy a panoramic view. There is also a restaurant for snacks and beverages at Schynige Platte (not included).

Maximum number of participants
30; minimum 20

Costs
The registration fee covers transportation by train, a lunch bag and a guided tour in the botanical garden.
Price: 77 CHF

Disclaimer
Health insurance and insurance against accidents is fully within the responsibility of the participants.
The program may be subject to small changes (e.g. schedule of public transportation).