

Ph.D. positions in Ecology and Functional Biodiversity Research

University of Freiburg, Germany
Dept. Of Evolutionary Biology and Animal Ecology

Application deadline:
31. December 2008

Start of the position
1.2. 2009

A PhD position (BAT IIa/E 13 (50%) ~ 1100 €) for initially two years (an extension for a 3rd year is intended) is available within the research group of PD Dr. H. Martin Schaefer at the University of Freiburg. The project will focus on how the diversity of floral colouration affects foraging behaviour of arthropods. Field work will take place in three areas, located in Schorfheide/Chorin, Hainich/Dün and Schwäbische Alb/Münsingen within a larger project aimed to understand feedback loops between land use intensity, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (for information, see [http:// www.biologie.uni-freiburg.de/data/bio1/schaefer/index.html](http://www.biologie.uni-freiburg.de/data/bio1/schaefer/index.html) & [http:// www.biodiversity-exploratories.de](http://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de)).

The Ph.D. candidate will focus on flower-visiting insect communities. He/she will measure flower colouration with spectrometry and apply vision modelling to analyse colour according to the visual abilities of pollinators. Moreover, the candidate will survey all insects on flowers in order to compile and analyse how visual signals mediate plant-pollinator interaction networks. During the project the candidate will need to perform extensive field work in forests and grasslands as well as manipulative experiments to study interactions between pollinators or across habitats. The successful candidate should have a strong background in plant identification in the field, basic knowledge in insect taxonomy, ecology of plant-insect interactions and advanced statistical analyses. A Diplom/M.Sc. degree in Biology or a related subject will be required. While the position will be based at the University of Freiburg, we expect that he/she will spend large parts of the season at the exploratories and travel between sites as well as spend time for network analysis in the group of Dr. Nico Blüthgen at the University of Würzburg. Driving licence is required and having available an own car would be useful. We expect the candidate to have good communication skills and the ability to work in a team. Application should include a cover letter, C.V., list of publications, a short statement of research interests, and names and email-addresses of two references within a single PDF. The closing date for applications will be 31. December 2008.

Applications in English or German are sent preferentially by e-mail. We especially encourage women to apply. Physically handicapped persons will be given preference in case of equal qualifications. Interviews will be held in mid-January.

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