

Job advertisement

Postdoctoral position - Metabarcoding (third party funded)

The Center of Molecular Biodiversity Research (<https://www.zfmk.de/en/zmb>) at the Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK) seeks enthusiastic, creative, and productive applicants for a full time position (initially for 30 months) in the field of large scale DNA metabarcoding.

Recent developments in the field of metabarcoding have enabled large-scale applications in biodiversity monitoring and conservation. Within the BMBF third party funded project **DINA** (Diversity of Insects in Nature protected Areas - Monitoring of insect biodiversity in protected areas subject to fragmentation, land use and ecotoxicological exposure) we seek to fill one postdoctoral position for the work package on biodiversity monitoring via metabarcoding of Malaise trap samples.

The focus lies on the detection of the entire species spectrum of flying insects and attached or contained plant fragments (also pollen – in cooperation with another research group at the University of Giessen). As an exploratory part, we will deploy automated Malaise traps for direct comparison with the efficiency of manually operated traps. The identification of the trap contents will be done via metabarcoding and complemented by insect taxonomists.

We are particularly interested in candidates using metabarcoding in their research and/or candidates developing analytical tools for metabarcoding. We seek an innovative and accomplished scientist with demonstrated skills in the aforementioned field(s).

Assessment Criteria:

The ranking of eligible applicants will be based primarily on research expertise. This comprises research merits as well as the applicant's potential to contribute to the success of the overall project goals. Special weight will be given to expertise in large-scale metabarcoding studies and biodiversity assessments, as well as to scientific independence. The candidate is expected to integrate into the national research group of the DINA project with partners from the following institutions:

Naturschutzbund Deutschland e. V. (NABU)

Institut für sozial-ökologische Forschung, Frankfurt/Main (ISOE)

Internationales Zentrum für Nachhaltige Entwicklung, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (IZNE)

iES Landau, Institut für Umweltwissenschaften

Entomologischer Verein Krefeld e.V. (EVK)
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, AG Spezielle Botanik (JLU)
Leibniz-Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung (IÖR)

Required qualifications:

It is essential that the applicant has

- a PhD in Biology or a closely related field with strong emphasis on metabarcoding;
- an internationally competitive publication record in relation to the career level;
- experience in processing amplicon high-throughput sequencing data;
- experience in metabarcoding data analysis and visualization;
- experience in staff management and student supervision;
- motivation to work in a team and take responsibility;
- excellent communication skills.

The ZFMK is a Zoological Research Museum of the Leibniz Association cooperating with the University of Bonn, funded by the Federal State of NRW and the federal government. The Center of Molecular Biodiversity Research has been established to foster molecular research spanning from genomics and speciation genetic research to developing high-throughput barcoding applications.

We offer a highly motivating environment and ability to work independently. As the project will tackle highly relevant questions around potential drivers of the dramatic insect decline documented by consortium members, we offer a unique possibility to sharpen ones scientific profile to become leading in this sector. Salary and benefits are according to a public service position in Germany (TV-L E 13). The ZFMK advocates gender equality. Women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Equally qualified severely disabled applicants will be given preference. The contract will start as soon as possible and will initially be restricted to 30 months.

Please send your application by e-mail attachment, including a cover letter, a detailed CV, a complete publication record, names of three potential referees and three selected publications as one single pdf file (max. 7 MB), until 06.08.2019 to Mrs. Heike Lenz (e-mail: h.lenz@leibniz-zfmk.de). In case of questions concerning the position please contact Dr. Sarah Bourlat (e-mail: S.Bourlat@leibniz-zfmk.de).

Please note that we confirm the receipt of each application to avoid technical errors or misunderstandings. If you have not received confirmation, don't hesitate to contact us.

For more information about the museum see <http://www.leibniz-zfmk.de>