

Bekanntmachung von freien Stellen



The Institute of Biodiversity at the Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, in Braunschweig is offering a full-time position (currently 39 hours per week) for a

Scientist (m/f/d)

for developing a cause- and consequence-related monitoring approach for insects, focusing on wild bees, within the context of the *Monitoring biodiversity in agricultural landscapes* (MonViA) joint project. The position is limited to a fixed term of five (5) years and is to be filled as soon as possible. The term of employment is regulated by § 2 (1) S. 2 Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz.

The Thünen Institute is a German research institution under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Institute pursues research approaches with the aim of safeguarding and sustainably using natural resources and providing results for political decision-making. The Institute of Biodiversity investigates biological processes in agro-ecosystems.

Agriculture is considered to be a major factor for modifying and reducing above ground biodiversity in terrestrial ecosystems and beyond. Germany has currently no comprehensive data describing the status and trends of biodiversity in agroecosystems. Therefore, 11 institutes of the Thünen Institute and Julius Kühn Institute and the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food have joined forces in the MonViA initiative for developing a modular approach for characterizing biodiversity in agro-ecosystems (www.thuenen.de/en/bd/arbeitsbereiche/monitoring/).

Insects and their ecosystem functions and services play an important role in agro-ecosystems. However, anthropogenic pressures (e.g. habitat fragmentation, loss of food resources, use of pesticides), and the spread of parasitoids and pathogens can negatively influence the development of insect populations. Therefore, the objective of the advertised position within the MonViA initiative is to develop concepts and test methods for a monitoring approach that allow identifying causes and consequences of changes in population trends of insects.

Responsibilities:

- Compiling and analysing pressure indicators based on geodata and agricultural statistics
- Analysing relationships between land-use (including pesticide applications), landscape heterogeneity, and the occurrence of parasites or pathogens and various insect groups with an emphasis on wild bees
- Developing and implementing experiments to assess potential interactions between parasites, pathogens, and pesticides on wild bee populations (e.g. population development, bee health, pollination performance) in agro-ecosystems
- Evaluating the applicability and limitations of different insect monitoring approaches for a nationwide monitoring of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
- Close cooperation with experts of wild bees in agricultural landscapes at the Thünen Institute for Biodiversity and the other MonViA partners
- Publishing and presenting results in scientific journals and at international and national meetings

Required qualifications:

- University degree (M.Sc., Univ.-Diploma) in landscape ecology, agro-ecology, environmental science, or closely related fields
- A PhD in one of those fields is necessary
- Experience in statistical data analysis, in particular in spatial modelling using R
- Solid knowledge of geographical information systems (e.g. ArcGIS) and PostGIS
- Deep knowledge of landscape ecology

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- Interest in agricultural and environmental topics and good understanding of agro-ecosystems and farming systems is desirable
- Experience in biodiversity monitoring and biodiversity indicators is desirable
- Expertise in entomology, in particular with wild bees, is an advantage
- Very good communication skills
- Ability to work independently, strong capacity for interdisciplinary teamwork and good organizational skills
- Candidates should be fluent in English (written and spoken) and have basic knowledge of the German language

We offer work in an active and stimulating scientific environment on questions of high relevance at the intersection between basic and applied life science and agriculture. The project promotes the collaboration and interaction with experts from national and international research organizations.

The Thünen Institute offers a family-friendly environment, flexible working hours and the possibility of further training and qualification.

The employment is governed by the Wage Agreement for Public Services (TVöD-Bund). Compensation is according to category 13 TVöD. Part time employment is possible.

The Thünen Institute promotes the professional equality of women and men.

Severely disabled applicants with equal qualification will be given particular consideration. Only minimal physical aptitude is expected from them.

Please contact Prof. Dr. Jens Dauber (phone: +49 531 596 2501) for enquiries about the position.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and copies of relevant certificates. Electronic submission is preferred. E-mail all application material (subject **19-218-BD**) in a single pdf file no later than **15.09.2019** to

bd@thuenen.de
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Informations about Artikel 13 DSGVO: www.thuenen.de/datenschutzhinweis-bewerbungen.