

PhD position (wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in) in Lemur Evolution

The Institute of Zoology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (TiHo Hannover) invites applications for a **PhD position** (65% TV-L E13 salary) in a project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The position is available from the **1st June 2020** for three years.

Drivers of speciation are diverse and complex, ranging from large-scale geomorphological processes like the formation of mountains or rivers to species-specific factors like ecological plasticity, habitat choice or colonization potential. We have chosen a highly suitable model region in northeastern Madagascar to explore the principal evolutionary processes driving lemur diversification and their interactions in this tropical biodiversity hotspot. The region harbors an outstanding lemur species richness, of which three nocturnal genera (*Lepilemur*, *Avahi*, *Microcebus*) will be studied in this project. We aim to combine geomorphological, ecological and genomic datasets (RADseq-based) and will reconstruct and compare gene flow and the phylogeography of the model species across their entire geographic range. As part of a larger framework, this project will thereby contribute to understand interactions of various drivers of speciation including chronology of riverine barriers, vagility, altitudinal tolerance, and ecological plasticity of the study models.

To achieve these goals, the PhD student will join a field team and spend a period of 2 x 3 months in various rainforest sites of northeastern Madagascar (ecological data collection and sampling). Working conditions in this study region are very challenging (e.g., rainy, muddy, steep terrain). The remaining time will be spent in the lab and subsequent bioinformatics analyses will be embedded in the activities of an international research consortium.

Applicants should hold a M.Sc. degree in biology or equivalent qualification and have a solid background in evolutionary biology, population genetics and/or bioinformatics. Moreover, a high motivation for a multi-faceted project that includes strenuous field work under basic living conditions in remote areas as well as advanced bioinformatics analyses of large molecular datasets are a prerequisite. Whereas an excellent physical condition and good language abilities in English, both orally and in writing, are required, some knowledge of French would be beneficial. Previous experience with tropical countries and with field techniques such as capture or handling of animals or distance sampling is a plus. In addition, the applicant should have a high capability of self-organization and the ability to work in a team as well as independently under difficult field working conditions.

Applications (in electronic form as single pdf file, subject line: lemur phylogeography) should consist of (I) a motivation letter, (II) a recent curriculum vitae including publications, (III) the abstract of the M.Sc. thesis together with Master certificate, and (IV) contact information of two professional references. Applications should be sent **until the 20th February 2020** by email to ute.radespiel@tiho-hannover.de. Individual interviews will be scheduled for selected candidates in March.

For informal inquiries please contact
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