



## BSc or MSc Project & Field Assistant “Biodiversity assessment in ground-dwelling mammals”

The Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn (ZFMK) invites applications for a BSc or MSc studentship and a field assistant. The resulting thesis will be a part of the project ‘Integrative Analysis of the Influence of Pesticides and Land Use on Biodiversity in Germany’ (INPEDIV). This interdisciplinary joint research of seven partner institutes<sup>1</sup> is led by ZFMK and funded for 3 years by the Leibniz Competition (project term March 2019 – February 2022). The aim of this study is to investigate consequences of organic and conventional farming for biodiversity in protected areas. By use of traditional methods and new technologies, we are examining agricultural land use effects on a broad range of plant and animal taxa at study sites in the Rhineland and in Brandenburg.

Starting date: 5 weeks of field work: some time between 1 July – 4 Sept 2021  
(+ prior site visit and field training for handling small mammals)

Financial Support: Travel Expenses, (field-) lodging and material costs are covered by the project  
A small supportive stipend can be paid to the field assistant.

We are looking for enthusiastic and highly motivated candidates to work on a sub-project live-trapping small mammals (rodents & shrews) on 5 sites in Brandenburg and subsequent data analysis in collaboration with ZFMK in Bonn. The main objective of the studentship is to collect data during summer fieldwork and analyze small mammal biodiversity patterns.

The BSc or MSc student will establish and maintain small mammal live trapping schemes for 3-4 nights at each of five field sites in Brandenburg. The students will cooperate within a larger multi-disciplinary team and will be supervised by Dr Jan Decher (ZFMK Mammalogy Section) and Dr Livia Schäffler (INPEDIV project lead). A first opportunity to see the Brandenburg field sites is scheduled for 6 - 9 April 2021 starting from ZALF in Müncheberg. We also are currently planning to offer a 1-week small mammal field training in Nationalpark Unteres Odertal from 20 - 24 June 2021 [all pending positive developments with the Covid-19 pandemic].

Candidates should have a sufficient knowledge in biology, zoology or a related discipline, with a good vertebrate biology background and strong motivation for biodiversity assessment of small mammals. Field biology / outdoor skills, willingness to work under rugged conditions, and a valid driver's licence are essential (own car is an asset). A rabies (*Tollwut*) vaccination is strongly recommended. Statistic knowledge with R or SPSS etc. and graphical data visualization is desirable. Fluent spoken and written German and English is a prerequisite.

Applications should include:

- (1) Letter of motivation (relevant skills, experience and research interests)
- (2) Curriculum vitae
- (3) Official BSc certificate
- (4) Contact details of one (ideally academic) reference.

Please submit your **application electronically as a single PDF file until April 1st, 2021** to Mrs. Heike Lenz: [h.lenz@leibniz-zfmk.de](mailto:h.lenz@leibniz-zfmk.de)

Questions concerning the project may be directed to Dr Livia Schäffler ([l.schaeffler@leibniz-zfmk.de](mailto:l.schaeffler@leibniz-zfmk.de)), those on small mammal thesis work to Dr Jan Decher ([j.decher@leibniz-zfmk.de](mailto:j.decher@leibniz-zfmk.de)).

The Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK) is one of three natural history research museums in the Leibniz Association and offers a pleasant and stimulating research environment. We value equality of opportunity, human dignity, racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. For gender equality reasons, women are strongly encouraged to apply. Equally qualified severely handicapped applicants will be given preference.

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<sup>1</sup> INPEDIV partners are the Zoological Research Museum Koenig (ZFMK), the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN), the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG), the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), the Entomological Society Krefeld (EVK), as well as the Universities of Koblenz-Landau and Bonn.