

A fully funded PhD position is available in the research group of Prof. Dr. Heike Pröhl and Dr. Ariel Rodríguez at the Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover (TiHo, shorturl.at/btT28) in Hannover, Germany.

PhD in Evolutionary Genomics of Aposematism in Frogs

We are interested in the evolutionary biology, genetics and conservation of amphibians with emphasis on the study of Neotropical poison frogs. In our previous studies, we found that the expression of genes involved in pigment production and structural coloration differs between colour morphs in the aposematic and charismatic *O. pumilio* (Rodríguez et al. 2020, BMC Genomics 21: 301). In this project, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), we will characterize the alkaloids (skin toxins) and pigments as well as underlying expression and genetic variation of coloration- and alkaloid-related genes in three aposematic *Oophaga* species. The project is a collaboration between the Universidad de Costa Rica, The Smithsonian Institution in Panama and the TiHo. Work will involve sampling in tropical forest environment as well as laboratory and bioinformatic processing of high-throughput sequencing data.

Candidates should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Biology with a specialization in e.g. herpetology, zoology, evolutionary genetics/genomics and/or computational biology. Experiences with fieldwork in the tropics, RNASeq methodology and bioinformatic analyses are desirable; fluency in Spanish language is a plus. The ideal candidate would sport a balanced mixture of features between a naturalist and a computer scientist with strong research motivation and the ability to work independently and in a team.

The position is funded for three years and the salary will be paid in accordance with the German Tarifvertrag des öffentlichen Dienstes (TVöD Bund), salary group 13 (65%). The TiHo is expressly committed to create a solid basis for equal opportunities for its members in all areas and encourages applications from all qualified individuals with independence of their gender, ancestry, language, country of origin, faith, religious or political views.

The starting date is negotiable, ideally February 2022. Review of applications will begin on September 25, 2021 until the position is filled.

Your application:

To apply please send (1) a letter of motivation, (2) your CV with publication list, and (3) the contact details of at least two referees to Prof. Dr. Heike Pröhl (heike.proehl@tiho-hannover.de).

For further questions, please contact the PIs per email (heike.proehl@tiho-hannover.de or ariel.rodriguez@tiho-hannover.de).