

Open doctoral researcher positions in ecology of insect-microbiota interactions (f/m/d)

Application deadline 31.01.2022 (Applications submitted before this date will be considered as they arrive)

E13 TV-L, 50% parttime

The Insect and Chemical Ecology Group at the Institute of Ecology, University of Bremen, Germany, is advertising doctoral positions in experimental analysis of the ecology of insect-microbiota interactions using fruit fly (*Drosophila*) species, starting as soon as possible.

We are looking for highly motivated and proactive individuals with an interest in the ecology of species interactions who are enthusiastic about conducting experimental work to answer new and challenging research questions. The planned work includes experimental analyses in existing microcosms hosting interactions between insects and microbes (fungi and bacteria), but also the establishment of new microcosms with insects and microbiomes from the field. Candidates will be given plenty of freedom to develop their own coherent research programme; possible topics include: Niche breadth, species coexistence, social strategies, environmental change and stressors or pathogen invasion. The project is expected to benefit strongly from candidates who have a good mix of practical, experimental and quantitative skills. Doctoral students will take a leading role in the project and should therefore be well-organised and have good time management, communication and collaboration skills.

Some of your qualifications

- Excellent understanding of ecological and evolutionary biology concepts, in particular with reference to species interactions
- Experience working in a microbiological laboratory is required
- Experience with experimental design and advanced statistics (in R) is required, but additional training will be provided
- Experience with standard molecular techniques (e.g. DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, etc.) is expected
- Experience working with insects in a symbiosis, sociality or chemical ecology context is an advantage
- Experience with analysis of next generation sequencing data is preferred
- Relevant scientific publications are advantageous, but not a requirement

Job description

The position is for a 3-year period. The start date is flexible but preference will be given to candidates who can start by July 2022. Salary is at the TV-L E13 50% level (currently a minimum of €2037 per month before taxes and social security contributions). We welcome all candidates regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religion, nationality or disability. Your key tasks as a doctoral student at our institute are:

- To manage and carry out your research project
- Write scientific articles and your doctoral thesis
- Teaching (2 semester hours) in the Bachelor (Biology) and Master (Ecology) programme (basic knowledge of German is required)

Formal requirements

Applicants should have a university diploma or MSc degree in biology, ecology, microbiology or a similar degree in another relevant research area with very good results and very good oral and written English skills. As criteria for the assessment of your qualifications, emphasis will also be laid on previous publications (if any) and relevant work experience.

Your application

Your application (a single pdf) should contain a short CV and a statement (max. 250 words) on your research interest with special reference to the potential topics outlined above. Please send your application to Inae Kim-Frommherz (inaekf@uni-bremen.de). Contact Marko Rohlf (rohlf1@uni-bremen.de) for any informal inquiries.