PhD position (m/w/d) in animal ecology at the Universität Würzburg

The **Chair of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology** at the **Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg**, Germany (https://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/zoo3/) invites applications for one

PhD Position

Starting date is 1st March 2023 or later. The position is fixed-time (36 months), remuneration will be based on the *Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder* (collective agreement for the public service of German federal states, TV-L 13, 65 % part-time). The job posting is subject to approval by the national funder.

Project description

Agricultural landscapes in Europe are home to a high diversity of plants and animals that provide essential ecosystem services such as pollination and pest control. Yet landscape simplification, intensive agricultural practices and anthropogenic climate change pose a major threat, especially to insects. Agri-environment schemes can be an effective tool to counteract negative impacts of human activities on biodiversity. However, their effectiveness depends on the type of measure, the landscape context, climatic conditions and possible interactions thereof. At the same time, implementation of biodiversity-enhancing methods is often insufficient. In this project, we use a participatory research approach involving living labs and BioBlitz activities to increase stakeholder participation and data collection, coupled with a large-scale, manipulative field experiment across four European countries. The main goal is to assess the effectiveness of habitat enhancement (via landscape complexity and floral enrichment) on insect biodiversity and associated species interaction (herbivory, pollination, pest control). The successful applicant with implement the research in Germany.

We require

We are seeking one highly motivated candidate with a strong interest and expertise in insects and agroecology to join our interdisciplinary and international project. The following qualifications are required:

- Applicants should have a university degree (MSc, *Diplom*) in ecology, zoology or a related discipline as well as strong skills in several of the following areas: experimental field research, use of statistical data analysis (preferably in R), excellent command of English language and experience with scientific writing
- Knowledge in insect (e.g., carabids, spiders, wild bees, butterflies) and plant identification
- Knowledge in the use of GIS is advantageous. Physical fitness and very good English language skills are required, as well as sound knowledge of German, as communication with local farmers and stakeholders, but also students/student assistants is a major component of the project
- Driver's license valid in Germany and (ideally) access to a car for field work

We offer

- Friendly and inspiring working atmosphere in a young research group and the opportunity to cooperate with internationally renowned scientists and Postdocs from within and outside of the department
- A structured PhD program with free access to transferable skill courses and workshop within the JMU Research Academy and the Graduate School of Life Sciences
- The chance to work at the interface between research, practice and nature conservation, with your own research contributing to the enhanced implementation of agri-environmental schemes in Europe

The University of Würzburg is an equal opportunity employer. As such, we explicitly encourage applications from qualified women. Applications from disabled persons with essentially the same qualifications will be given preferential consideration.

Please email your application as **a single PDF file to Dr. Sarah Redlich (*sarah.redlich@uni-wuerzburg.de*) until 9th January 2023.** Applications should include a cover letter, a short summary of your research interests and experience, CV, list of publications, certificates, and the names and email addresses of two potential referees. Interviews of applicants will take place in mid January 2023.

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