

The Faculty of Biology, Department of Evolutionary Biology, has the following job opening:

Research position (PhD candidate)



ID: **Wiss23015**

- Start: as soon as possible
- part-time 65 %
- salary according to remuneration level 13 TV-L
- fixed-term

The Phd position is part of the "Freigeist" research project "Plasticity-led evolution in the phenotype of a freshwater snail: from the epigenome to genetic change" funded by the Volkswagen-Stiftung. Phenotypic plasticity allows organisms short-term adaptation to environmental changes. Antipredator plasticity, the ability of individuals to plastically respond to the presence of predators with inducible defenses, is one of the best-studied instances of phenotypic plasticity. The freshwater gastropod *Physella acuta*, a simultaneous hermaphrodite, is a well-established model system for antipredator plasticity. While there are numerous different chemical predator-related cues that can induce defenses in this species, little is known about their properties and their chemical identity. The aim is to study behavioral and morphological responses of individuals to different predator-related chemical cues and to use chromatographic methods so as to reveal the identity of the chemical compounds that induce antipredator plasticity in this model system.

Your Tasks

Research tasks (95 %):

- experimental work with freshwater gastropods
- chromatographic analyses
- collaboration with other researchers
- preparation of contributions for scientific conferences
- writing scientific publications for international journals

Other tasks (5 %):

- organizational tasks within the research group

The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification.

Your Profile

We expect

- completed scientific university degree (e. g. Master of Science or equivalent) in evolutionary ecology, chemical ecology, animal ecology, animal behavior or any related field
- experience in experimental work with living animals
- proven skills in chromatography (flash chromatography, analytical chromatography) or high motivation to rapidly acquire such skills
- excellent oral and written English language skills
- independent, self-reliant and dedicated style of work
- strong organizational and coordination skills
- ability to cooperate and work in a team

We offer

- salary according to remuneration level 13 TV-L
- fixed-term (3 years) (§2 (1) sentence 1 of the WissZeitVG; in accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases)
- part-time 65 %
- internal and external training opportunities
- variety of health, consulting and prevention services
- reconcilability of family and work
- flexible working hours
- job ticket for regional public transport network
- supplementary company pension
- collegial working environment
- open and pleasant working atmosphere
- exciting, varied tasks

Preferred experience and skills

- experience in chemical ecology
- experience with high-performance liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry as well as with the systems Reveleris X2, MicroTofQ
- experience in preparing scientific publications
- experience with R
- experience with antipredator phenotypic plasticity
- experience with alarm cues
- experience in working with gastropods or with the model species *Physella acuta*

Application Procedure

We are looking forward to receiving your application. For full consideration, your application should be received via either email (a single PDF document is required) sent to denis.meuthen@uni-bielefeld.de or post (see postal address). Please mark your application with the identification code: Wiss23015. Please note that the possibility of privacy breaches and unauthorized access by third parties cannot be excluded when communicating via unencrypted e-mail. For Information on the processing of personal data [click here](#).

application deadline: 23.02.2023

Contact

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements as an equal-opportunity employer and has been recognized as a family-friendly university. The university welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard both to academic and technical posts as well as positions in information technology as well as the skilled crafts and trades. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state statutes on equal opportunity. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

At Bielefeld University on request positions can be carried out with reduced working hours as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

