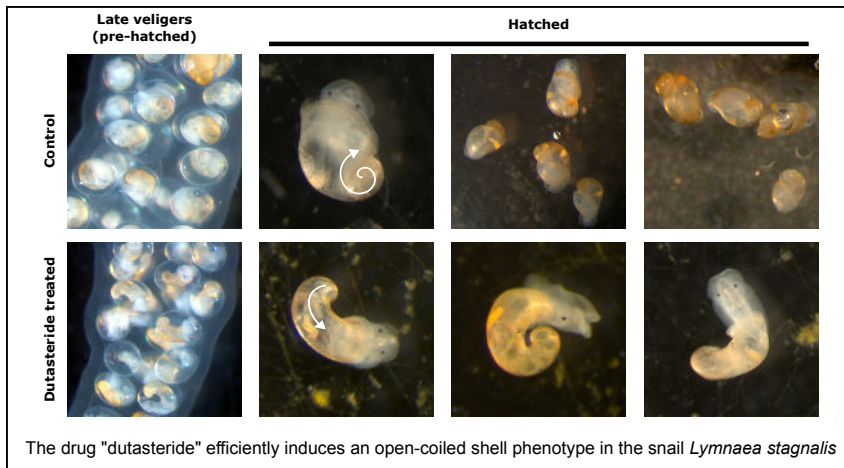


# PhD position in molluscan evo-devo available!



Molluscan shell morphologies have been admired and studied by mathematicians, physicists and biologists for centuries. However, the cellular and molecular mechanisms that generate a coiled shell remain unknown. The recent discovery of a spectacular and robust open coil “banana” phenotype generated in response to the endocrine disruptor ‘dutasteride’ presents an ideal opportunity to explore these mechanisms in the model mollusc *Lymnaea stagnalis*. Using a transcriptomics approach, coupled with in situ visualization of spatial gene expression patterns, the PhD candidate will identify and characterize the major genetic components of the shell-coiling program in *L. stagnalis*. In addition, although *L. stagnalis* is a formally recognised OECD bio-sentinel species, its full potential to detect endocrine-active chemicals in the environment is hampered by a lack of knowledge regarding their modes of action in molluscs. Therefore, this project will also significantly contribute to the environmental monitoring of European and holarctic waterways.

This PhD position at the University of Göttingen (Germany) requires an individual with strong molecular biology skills and familiarity with the analysis of large computational datasets such as transcriptomes and whole genomes. Standard molecular lab skills such as RNA/DNA isolation, PCR, cloning and Sanger sequence analysis are required. A familiarity with bioinformatic analyses (for example the ability to write Perl, Python, R and shell scripts, to install and use command line programs and use high performance computing clusters for analyses) is highly desirable. Familiarity with maintaining (and repairing) semi-automated aquarium systems and working with aquatic animals would be advantageous.

Candidates should hold a Masters in evolution, cell biology, developmental biology, molecular biology, or a related field. In addition to their academic qualifications, candidates should have excellent communication, record keeping, organisational and team-working skills, be committed to the topic and to working in a dedicated, interdisciplinary research environment. The working language of the group is English, and applicants from abroad are encouraged to apply. For international applicants a desire to learn German should be demonstrated.

The University of Göttingen is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply in fields in which they are underrepresented. The university has committed itself to being a family-friendly institution and supports their employees in balancing work and family life. The mission of the University is to employ a greater number of severely disabled persons. Applications from severely disabled persons with equivalent qualifications will be given preference.

All applications should be made in English, and must include the following 3 items (incomplete applications will not be considered):

1. A full academic CV including any published or unpublished academic work.
2. A 1-2 page letter outlining your research interests and motivation for applying.
3. 1-2 Letters of reference and contact details of 1-2 referees (e.g. previous supervisors).

Applications with the usual documents are to be submitted in electronic form (a single PDF) by **31.08.2023** to the online application platform of the Georg-August University of Göttingen.

<http://obp.uni-goettingen.de/de-de/OBF/Index/74168>

Informal enquiries prior to submitting an application can be directed to: [djackso@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:djackso@uni-goettingen.de)  
For more information about the group see <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/102705.html>

Please note: We would like to point out that the submission of the application constitutes consent under data protection law to the processing of your application data by us. You can find more information on the legal basis and use of data in the: Information sheet on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/hinweisdsqvo>