



UNIVERSITÄT  
BAYREUTH

The University of Bayreuth is a research-oriented university with internationally competitive, interdisciplinary focus areas in research and teaching. Within the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences at the University of Bayreuth, the research group **Population Ecology**, **Prof. Dr. Heike Feldhaar**, is currently seeking to appoint a

## **Research assistant (PhD candidate) (f/m/d)**

### **within the biodiversa+ joint project: MonitAnt - Developing a European-level Monitoring strategy for mound-building Formica ants and symbiont communities residing in nest mounds.**

Within this joint project comprising partners from seven European countries, the successful candidate will help in

1. comparing existing monitoring strategies for mound-building Formica wood ants (MBF) on the European level and use expert knowledge to develop and validate a harmonized monitoring strategy for policymakers and a recommendation for citizen science projects to facilitate monitoring of distribution and population trends of MBF,
2. characterization of the diversity of myrmecophiles within nests along climatic, altitudinal, and fragmentation gradients to assess the importance of MBF as umbrella species using metabarcoding,
3. monitoring of genetic diversity of MBF along climatic and forest fragmentation gradients and establish thresholds for reproduction of MBF in managed forests to identify requirements for stable populations

We offer a fixed-term 3-year position, starting preferably on March 1st, 2024 (April 1st, 2024 is the latest possible starting date). The position comprises salary and benefits commensurate with a public service position at the University of Bayreuth, Germany (TV-L E13, 65%). The position provides the possibility to conduct a PhD.

Candidates interested in this position should have a M.Sc. in Biology/Ecology or related areas. Ideally, the candidate has experience with field work. Skills in statistical data analysis (preferably with R) are expected. A focus on entomology and especially experience in the determination of arthropods (including experience with metabarcoding) would be a special benefit.

We expect the candidate to have good communication skills and the ability to work in an international team, with research groups from several European countries. The successful candidate is expected to conduct field work in Germany and in other European countries and work together with foresters and citizen scientists in Germany. Therefore, a driving licence and the ability to communicate in German and English are a prerequisite.

The University of Bayreuth views the diversity of its staff as an asset and is expressly committed to the goal of gender equality. Women and any persons who can help make the research and teaching profile of the university more diverse are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants with children are very welcome. All qualifications being equal, applicants with disabilities will be given priority.

**Please send your application documents** (consisting of a cover letter, a short summary of research interests and experience, CV, list of publications, certificates and contacts of two potential referees) as a single pdf-file to **Prof. Dr. Heike Feldhaar** ([feldhaar@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:feldhaar@uni-bayreuth.de)). **Application deadline is January 31st, 2024.** The documents will be deleted after the position has been filled in accordance with data protection requirements.