

## Job offer

The Chair of Behavioral Physiology and Sociobiology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU), Germany, is inviting applications for a

### Researcher Position (PhD position)

#### The impact of natural and artificial light at night on the flight behavior of moths

A DFG-funded PhD position is available in the group of Dr. Jacqueline Degen (Biocenter). The contract will start on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and will be fixed term for a period of three years. The position is part time (65%).

#### Description

The invention of electric light massively changed the light environment that nocturnal insects are adapted to. Recording of flight trajectories over several hundred meters using harmonic radar revealed that orientation of moths is significantly affected by streetlights, although only a small fraction of individuals finally flies towards the light source.

Using field and laboratory experiments, the present project particularly aims at understanding the circumstances eliciting attraction towards a light source. A major focus is dedicated to unveiling the interplay between streetlight height and intensity on attraction (field experiment in Berlin), the impact of streetlights in pristine landscapes (field experiment in the Rhön Dark Sky Reserve) and weighting of natural and artificial light cues in a conflicting situation (lab experiment with an LED arena). The expected findings will not only be relevant for a deeper understanding of insect orientation but will also provide a basis for understanding why moths fly towards the light.

#### What we offer:

- A three-year PhD position
- An exciting and excellent research environment at the Biocenter
- Travel opportunities for training, research and meetings
- The possibility to associate with the Graduate School of Life Sciences (GSLs) at the JMU, which offers structured interdisciplinary training for participating PhD students

#### Qualifications:

- A Master's degree or equivalent in biology, ecology or a related discipline
- A solid background in animal behavior
- Fieldwork experience
- Excellent communication and team-working skills
- A driver's license to perform fieldwork
- Good statistical skills in R would be desirable, but are not required

#### Your application should include:

- A motivation letter, including scientific interest and details of past research experience
- A detailed curriculum vitae
- Photocopies of exam results
- A publication list – if any
- Contact information of two referees

The JMU aims to reduce the underrepresentation of women and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will be given preferential consideration in the case of broadly equal suitability, ability and professional achievements.

Please note: We will not be able to reimburse you for your application and travel expenses.

Please send your convincing application and supporting documents, preferably as a single PDF file, to [jacqueline.degen@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:jacqueline.degen@uni-wuerzburg.de).

For further information, please send an email.

Universität Würzburg, Biozentrum, Zoologie II, Am Hubland, 97074 Würzburg, Germany

**The closing date for applications is March 15th, 2024.**

Please send copies of documents only. For cost reasons, application documents cannot be returned. Documents will be destroyed as soon as the selection procedure has been completed. If you enclose a postage-paid envelope, the application documents will be returned to you by three months after the end of the selection procedure.

