Job announcement

Institute of Organismic and Molecular Evolution,
Evolutionary Ecology,
Johannes Gutenberg-University (JGU) Mainz

PhD position

on life histories of extant bony fishes, (liss)amphibians and (non-avian)reptiles

Application deadline: October 15th 2024

Preferred starting date: January 1st 2025

Duration: 3 years

Salary: German salary scale (TV-L 13, 65%)

The successful candidate will contribute substantially to the project "The evolution of life histories in early tetrapods" (FOR 5581) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/pressemitteilung?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=61961&cHash=92f886b3fc97f078cd3e44506ca93945

The major **goal** of the FOR 5581 research unit is to understand the transition of early tetrapods from water to land, which happened around 360 million years ago. This transition did not go along with changes in lifestyles (aquatic, semiaquatic or terrestrial lifestyle) of species only, but also with changes in their life history strategies (i.e. the combination of life history trait values seen in a species) and modes of nutrition and locomotion. In this research unit, working groups located at the University of Hohenheim and the Natural History Museum Stuttgart, the University of Mainz and the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin collaborate. The task of the "Mainz project" is to infer life history strategies, lifestyles, modes of nutrition and locomotion of early tetrapods by applying extant bony fishes, (liss)amphibians and (non-avian)reptiles as models.

Your **tasks** include:

- Compilation of a database on life history traits, lifestyle, nutrition and locomotion of extant bony fishes;
- Modelling of the interrelation of life history traits in extant bony fishes including potential effects of lifestyle, nutrition and locomotion on their interrelation (phylogeny-informed regression analysis and analysis of covariance);
- Establishment of differences in life history strategies with respect to lifestyle, nutrition and locomotion in extant bony fishes, (liss)amphibians and (non-avian)reptiles (phylogeny-informed principal component analysis);
- Modelling the evolutionary changes in (liss)amphibian life history traits, lifestyle, nutrition and locomotion (ancestral state reconstruction).

We invite applications from highly motivated candidates with a strong interest in life history theory and vertebrate diversity.

Your **profile**:

- MSc degree in biology or a related field with a thesis topic related to the diversity in animal life history strategies or phylogeny-informed statistical modelling;
- Strong background in ecology and evolution;
- Excellent experience in statistical modelling in R;
- Experience with the analysis of large datasets;
- Excellent social skills, motivation and enthusiasm for teamwork;
- Very good communication skills and very good written and spoken English;
- Desire to obtain a PhD degree.

To **apply**, please provide:

- A letter of motivation including a statement of your research experience and how it fits to this project (1-2 pages);
- A scientific CV including a publication list and copies of relevant certificates;
- Names and contact details of two academic referees.

Applications should be submitted electronically as a single PDF to **em.griebeler@uni-mainz.de**

For further information regarding the position, please feel free to contact apl. Prof. Dr. Eva Maria Griebeler via e-mail: em.griebeler@uni-mainz.de