The Group of Evolutionary Ecology at the **University of Regensburg, Germany** offers a

3-year PhD position (salary level TV-L E13, 65%)
to study developmental plasticity in ants

Ant queens and workers are a striking example of developmental plasticity but the mechanisms underlying this evolutionary innovation are not well understood. This project will test the hypothesis that genes involved in sexual dimorphism facilitated the evolution of caste polyphenism in ants by combining developmental biology with comparative transcriptomics and genomics.

The position is integrated into the DFG Priority Programme Project 2349 "Genomic Basis of Evolutionary Innovations" (GEvol, https://g-evol.uni-muenster.de). This research program brings together scientists from different backgrounds in biology to characterise the dynamics and mechanisms of genomic innovations underlying novel traits.

You will join the *Cardiocondyla obscurior* Research team (CoRe, www.cardiocondyla.org), a diverse group of researchers and students from five countries, and receive extensive training in evolutionary biology, bioinformatics and social insect biology. You will participate in scientific exchange and training within the GEvol and CoRe networks and take part in national and international conferences. You will also enrol in RIGeL - the Regensburg International Graduate School of Life Sciences (RIGeL, https://www.rigel-regensburg.de) - which brings together PhD students working on topics ranging from organismal biology to theoretical ecology and RNA biology.

Requirements

Applicants are required to have a master's (or equivalent) degree. Applicants should have a strong interest in evolutionary biology and be highly motivated to analyse DNA and RNA sequence data. We are furthermore looking for someone who enjoys solving problems, interpreting results and thinking independently. Fluency in written and spoken English is required.

The University Regensburg is an equal opportunity employer and we actively encourage applications by women and other groups underrepresented in academia. Candidates from underrepresented groups with equivalent qualifications and academic achievements will be preferentially considered.

How to apply

The application should be compiled into a single PDF file, which includes (1) a cover letter stating your motivation to join the project (max. 1 page), (2) a CV with information about academic education and degrees, professional experience, publications, fellowships/awards, conference contributions, languages, and other relevant skills and abilities (max. 2 pages), (3) an abstract of your master's thesis, and (4) a letter of recommendation from a former advisor. Applications should be sent by email as **one PDF file** to PD Dr. Eva Schultner (eva.schultner(at)ur.de). The deadline for the application is **February 27th, 2026.**

For more information, contact PD Dr. Eva Schultner
https://www.uni-regensburg.de/biologie-vorklinische-medizin/forschen/arbeitsgruppen/ag-schultner