Job advertisement

Reg.-Nr. **343/2020**
Frist **30.11.2020**

Friedrich Schiller University is a traditional university with a strong research profile rooted in the heart of Germany. As a university covering all disciplines, it offers a wide range of subjects. Its research is focused on the areas Light—Life—Liberty. It is closely networked with non-research institutions, research companies and renowned cultural institutions. With around 18,000 students and more than 8,600 employees, the university plays a major role in shaping Jena's character as a cosmopolitan and future-oriented city.

Friedrich Schiller University Jena seeks to fill the following position at iDiv from **1st April 2021** onwards:

Doctoral Researcher
on the project "Chemical Coevolution of Animals and Plants" (f/m/d)

initially limited until 31st October 2023, extension to the full three years is planned and dependent upon successful extension of DFG funding
65 percent of a full-time employment
Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L
Place of work: Leipzig

The FSU Jena seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Background:
The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. It is located in the city of Leipzig and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), the University of Leipzig (UL), and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). For more information please visit: www.idiv.de.

Fleshy fruits have evolved to be attractive to animals that feed on them, disperse their seeds, and thus facilitate plant reproduction. Many studies have documented how physical and visual traits of fruits have been shaped by their interactions with seed-dispersing animals. Chemical communication, within and between species, is ubiquitous in all major lineages. Yet so far, our understanding of the role of chemical signals in facilitating animal-plant interactions in the context of seed dispersal is lacking.
The successful candidate will conduct a PhD project on comparative chemistry and transcriptomics of fig species in Madagascar. The project will explore the link between chemical signals (fig scent) and reward (sugar). Ultimately, the project attempts to understand how fig scent (as a model for other plants as well) has evolved as a communication system with seed-dispersing lemurs. The successful candidate will get to explore multiple study sites in Madagascar and learn high-end chemical and molecular methods. The project is supervised by Dr. Omer Nevo, the group leader of iDiv`s new junior research group "Chemical Coevolution of Animals and Plants".

Job description:

- Scientific Project development, including logistics
- Development of methods
- Data collection in Madagascar
- Analysis of chemical and transcriptomic data
- Statistical analysis
- Publication in peer-reviewed journals

Requirements:

- Successful MSc degree in biology, ecology, or closely related discipline
- Experience and interest in Gas chromatography or mass spectrometry, molecular methods and statistical analysis is preferable (at least in one discipline, the more the better)
- Experience in independently running research projects desirable
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Willingness and ability to conduct long and challenging fieldwork in Madagascar
- Willingness and ability to travel to partner labs within Germany, possibly for weeks
- High motivation to pursue a career in science

Kindly send your application, quoting the reference number 343/2020 via our application portal at https://apply.idiv.de. While we prefer applications via this portal, hard-copy applications may also be sent to:

German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv (Halle-Jena-Leipzig)
Human Resources Department
Puschstraße 4, D-04103 Leipzig

Submission deadline is 30th November 2020.

All applications should include:

- Cover letter (in English) describing your motivation for the position and your fit to the position in relation to experiences in Gas chromatography or mass spectrometry, molecular methods and statistical analysis (1-3 sentences per point); title and short description of your MSc thesis
- Complete curriculum vitae
- Reference letter from a previous advisor or collaborator
- Digital copy of the master`s certificate and transcript of records or equivalent (please explain if not yet available)

For inquiries on the application process, please contact hr@idiv.de. For more information on this position please contact Dr. Omer Nevo (omer.nevo@evolutionary-ecology.de).

iDiv is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We will welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff from diverse genders and backgrounds.