

Job Market 200/2012

Leipzig, December 12, 2012

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** is one of the seven National Research Centres funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). 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). It is supported by the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association, the Klaus Tschira Foundation and the Free State of Saxony. Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change.

The University of Leipzig offers as from March 1, 2013 the following position:

Doctoral fellowship

(initially limited to 3 years, 65 percent of a full-time employment)

Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

on Ecological Modelling of Genetic Diversity in Plant Communities

Embedded in the active research environment of iDiv, the **Young BioDiversity Research Training Group (yDiv)** will be established. Its goal is to educate a new generation of scientists in transdisciplinary biodiversity research, who will have gained expertise both in experimental as well as theoretical fields of research. Fellows will attend lectures and seminars on a broad range of topics in the field of biodiversity science and conduct their research in a modern, international and integrative working environment.

Topic/job description:

- develop models of performance of individual transgenic wild tobacco plants with/without infestation by herbivores
- parameterize the model using data from existing and new experiments
- create an individual-based plant population model including interaction with herbivores
- explore the ecological consequences of genetic and trait diversity
- devise predictions that can be tested in mesocosm experiments at iDiv

Requirements / expected profile:

- an excellent master's degree in a relevant field of research, including biology, physics, physiology, mathematics, computer science, or environmental engineering.
- sound knowledge in basic mathematics and computer programming
- proficiency in advanced statistical methods
- experience in dynamic modelling of biological systems
- deep interest in theory development and biodiversity research
- high motivation to collaborate in a team with experimenters
- good use of spoken and written English and ambition to publish in international journals
- creativity, enthusiasm and endurance

We offer you a PhD position in the first cohort of yDiv PhD students. All doctoral fellows will study together at iDiv and will be affiliated with one of the three universities. This position will be affiliated with the University of Leipzig and supervised by Dr. Stefan Meldau (<http://www.ice.mpg.de>) and Prof. Ian Baldwin, Max-Planck-Institute for Chemical Ecology, Jena (<http://www.ice.mpg.de/>) and Prof. Volker Grimm, Department of Ecological Modelling, Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research – UFZ, Leipzig (<http://www.ufz.de>).

Applications are accepted until **January 18, 2013**. All applications should make reference to the file number 200/2012, include a cover letter describing research interests and relevant experience, curriculum vitae, one letter of recommendation and MA/BA/Diploma certificates.

Applications should be directed to **both**:

University of Leipzig
Faculty for Biosciences, Pharmacy, and Psychology
The Dean Professor Dr. Andrea Robitzki
Brüderstraße 32, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

and in electronic form to the yDiv coordinator Dr. Julia Zimmermann (jula.zimmermann@idiv-biodiversity.de) in a single PDF file with reference file number in the subject line. For **queries** on the application process please contact jula.zimmermann@idiv-biodiversity.de.

Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

iDiv and the University of Leipzig are equal opportunity employers.

Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.