

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Faculty 10 Biology, Institute of Zoology, Dept. Evolutionary Biology at the University of Mainz is searching for

aPhD Student (3 years – 65% TVL E13)

for the research project



Evolution of ant slavery and the genetic basis of slavemaker and host behavior

Application is possible until position is filled, for full consideration apply by 10th of July 2014

We invite applications for a **3-years PhD position** at the JGU University of Mainz, Germany. The project aims at understanding the evolution of slavemaking and host defense behavior and its genetic basis. Our model system are *Temnothorax* ants, in which ant slavery evolved repeatedly and in which parasite pressure led to the evolution of multiple host defense strategies. In this project, we use a RNA-seq approach to study characteristic gene expression patterns in closely related slavemaker and host species and compare different behavioural states within and between species. Moreover, we will use sequence data to detect differentially selected genes between slavemaker and host species with the aim to identify genes involved in slavemaker and host evolution. Our aim is to link slavemaker phenotype to its underlying genotype, as to unravel in future the genetic basis of coevolution in these obligate social parasite-host systems.

The position requires a Diploma or Master degree in Biology (or a related field). The successful candidate should be highly motivated and have a strong background in evolutionary genetics and behavioral ecology. Previous research experiences with genomics, transcriptomics, bioinformatics, behavioral experiments, or social insects are advantageous, but not required. The position is funded by the DFG (65% TV-L E13). Students from every nationality are encouraged to apply. The working language of the laboratory is English.

Our young group offers an international, dynamic and interactive scientific environment and state-of the art, newly equipped laboratories. Information on our scientific work including recent publications can be found under http://www.bio.uni-mainz.de/zoo/evobio/318_ENG_HTML.php. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us feldmeyer@uni-mainz.de or foitzik@uni-mainz.de. The University of Mainz hosts many excellent scientific institutions (<http://www.uni-mainz.de/eng>) and Mainz is a historic city located on the River Rhine with many students and a rich social and cultural life (<http://www.mainz.de>).

Interested candidates should send an application (as a single pdf e-mail attachment) containing a letter of motivation a brief statement of their research experience and interests (max. 1 page), a curriculum vitae (with the grades of their B.Sc and M.Sc), a copy of their Master or Diploma thesis, and the names and email address of 2-3 potential referees to Dr. Barbara Feldmeyer (feldmeyer@uni-mainz.de) or Dr. Susanne Foitzik (foitzik@uni-mainz.de).

Review of applications will begin July 10th 2014 and will continue until the position is filled. It would be advantageous if selected candidates could participate in Skype interviews on July 16th and in an onsite visit on August 26th. The ideal starting date for the position is October 2014, but is negotiable.

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