



Reference number 39/2021

**Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d)
In the Experimental Interaction Ecology Group**

initially limited until 30 September 2021, extension for additional 3 years is planned (pending final approval of funding)

65% of a full-time position

Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L

Place of work: Leipzig

Leipzig University seeks to fill the above position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig at the earliest opportunity.

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. Located in the city of Leipzig, it is a Central Institution of Leipzig University and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More Information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

We invite applications for the position of a doctoral researcher to analyse energy fluxes in food webs in the framework of tree diversity experiments.

The positive relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning can be mainly attributed to the complementary use of soil resources. We test how biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationships differ among tree communities of different species richness. We expect tree communities of high species richness to have the strongest biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationship. Quantification of energy fluxes in food webs is a powerful tool for investigating the biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationship typically featuring high trophic complexity and multiple ecosystem functions, which are otherwise difficult to quantify.

The aim of the project is to investigate (1) whether and how tree species and functional diversity alter energy fluxes in the food web and, in turn, the functioning of the ecosystem, (2) whether seasonality can influence the functioning, and (3) whether patterns found in temperate regions can also be found in other biomes around the globe.

The project is supervised by Dr Olga Ferlian (postdoc, iDiv / Leipzig University; olga.ferlian@idiv.de) and Professor Nico Eisenhauer (Professor for Experimental Interaction Ecology at iDiv / Leipzig University; nico.eisenhauer@idiv.de).

Tasks

- Comprehensive sampling, identification, and assessment of different parameters of above- and belowground invertebrates in the field
- Calculations of energy fluxes
- Assessment of ecosystem processes (predation rates, decomposition, and herbivory) in the field, comparison with energy fluxes
- Coordination and implementation of a global sampling initiative within the global network of tree diversity experiments TreeDivNet.

The doctoral researcher will have to submit their PhD thesis as a cumulative thesis, comprising at least three chapters in the form of first-author papers in international peer-reviewed journals, of which at least one paper must have been accepted or published by the time of thesis submission. The researcher will gain experience in analysing large datasets, coordinating a large global sampling initiative, and collaborating with other researchers globally. Doctoral researchers at iDiv benefit from inter- and transdisciplinary training and support by the iDiv graduate school yDiv.

Requirements

- Master's or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g., ecology, environmental sciences)
- Very good ecological knowledge and great interest in biodiversity research
- Very good quantitative and statistical skills in R are essential
- Field work experience, especially with invertebrate sampling, is advantageous
- A clear drive to do science, and a hypothesis-driven approach
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Basic German communication skills would be advantageous
- Flexible and well-organized, hands-on mentality
- Motivated to be a proactive team player in an international research consortium.

Kindly send your application, quoting reference number 39/2021, via our application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de>. While we prefer applications via our application portal, hard-copy applications can also be sent to:

German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv

Professor Nico Eisenhauer

Puschstraße 4

04103 Leipzig

The deadline for submissions is 16 March 2021.

Applications should include:

- Cover letter describing the applicant's motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- Complete curriculum vitae including names and contact details of at least two scientific referees
- Digital copy of master's certificate or equivalent.

For queries on the application process, please contact our HR Department (hr@idiv.de); for project-related questions, please contact Dr Olga Ferlian (olga.ferlian@idiv.de). Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability. Please note that applying via email may be associated with risks under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

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.

Privacy information

The personal data contained within your application documents or obtained during the interview will be processed exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. The legal basis for such data processing is Section 11(1) of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (SächsDSDG) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The controller for the application process within the meaning of the GDPR is the addressee of the application, as specified in the respective advertisement. When processing your application, your personal data will be passed on within Leipzig University to

- *members of the selection committee*
- *the human resources management teams*
- *the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities*
- *the Disability Officers and*
- *if necessary, the Staff Council*

as part of their organisational or statutory responsibilities.

Your personal data will be erased no later than six months after completion of the selection process. In accordance with the GDPR, subject to the relevant statutory requirements you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application with regard to your personal data: right of access (Art. 15 GDPR); right to rectification of inaccurate personal data (Art. 16 GDPR); right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR); right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR); and right to object to processing (Art. 21 GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the Data Protection Officer at Leipzig University (office: Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig). You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon Commissioner for Data Protection.