

HiWi position in BadBug experiment – 6 months, 10-19 h / week, field campaign in May 2022

We offer a **HiWi (student helper) position** (initially **10-19 h / week, 6 months**, ideally **starting in May**) as part of the new BadBug experiment investigating the impact of invertebrate herbivores and fungal pathogens on plant communities. Details below – **please share widely**.

If interested, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Background

The brand-new BadBug experiment in Bad Lauchstädt, coordinated by UFZ and iDiv researchers, is part of a newly-established global research initiative, BugNet (<https://bug-net.org/>), which aims to investigate how invertebrate herbivores and fungal pathogens impact plant communities and ecosystem processes. To assess these impacts, we will exclude herbivores, fungi, and molluscs in various combinations. In BadBug, we focus on i) the plant communities and ii) on the associated arthropod community as well as soil mesofauna and soil processes. In May 2022, we will run the first sampling campaign in Bad Lauchstädt – and this will only be the start of this exciting project.



Figure 1. Left: BadBug field site in Bad Lauchstädt. Right: Arthropods at work.

Work description

For the arthropod- and soil-related part of BadBug, we are now looking for a student helper to join the team. We offer a **HiWi (student helper) position (10-19 h / week, 6 months)**. Because the initial sampling campaign will take place in May 2022, the preferred starting date is start of May. Work will take place **in Leipzig and Bad Lauchstädt**. Travelling to the field site will be arranged centrally.

The work will comprise many different aspects of field and lab work including but not limited to: helping with **field work** in the May 2022 sampling campaign, helping with **experimental setup** and **maintenance**, insect **suction sampling**, **soil** sampling, **plant functional trait** assessments in the field (no *a priori* knowledge necessary), **extraction of soil animals, sorting, identification** and processing of above- and belowground **arthropod** samples, soil-sample processing and lab analyses (supervised by technical staff), general **problem solving**.

It will be very important to **be free to join the ~2-week sampling campaign in Bad Lauchstädt in May** (daily travel back and forth from Leipzig).

We offer research training in a diverse, welcoming, and motivated team, supervision by experienced and highly-motivated researchers at a unique research centre and the possibility to work on exciting questions with state-of-the art ecological methods. The BadBug experiment will enable students to learn various lab and experimental methods and interact with a diverse team of staff (Experimental Interaction Ecology group) and collaborators.

The HiWi **positions might be extended** beyond the initial 6 months.

Contact

The work will be supervised by **Dr. Malte Jochum** (malte.jochum@idiv.de). Please **contact us as soon as possible** if you are interested to further discuss the options.