Vacancy announcement

iDiv, the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research, invites application to a **doctoral position** in **eco-evolution of pollinator viruses** in the group of **Prof. Dr. Robert Paxton.**

Project:

Rapid evolutionary responses may arise from novel selective pressures as a consequence of anthropogenic global change. The project in which the PhD student will be embedded aims to test (i) whether viral pathogen spill-over from managed honey bees to native bumble bees, a consequence of human-assisted introduction of a novel viral vector to honey bees, has led to viral adaptation to novel hosts, and (ii) whether common and widespread hosts – but not rare and declining species – have coevolved an innate immune response to those pathogens. By focusing on bumble bees, a major pollinator group in temperate Northern Hemisphere, results of the project will address the conservation of an important group of ecosystem service providers. The project focuses on the co-evolution of host-pathogen interactions and integrates disciplines of ecology and informatics and scales from genome to the community.

Environment:

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig has for central mission to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in integrative biodiversity research. 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 consortium is highly interdisciplinary and offers a unique opportunity to develop a transdisciplinary curriculum with emphasis on the ubiquity of biodiversity. The members of the consortium are spread over Germany, in majority from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), Leipzig University (UL) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). The doctoral researcher will benefit of our structured training program yDiv.

Qualification and position:

Due to the integrative nature of iDiv, motivated candidates from all backgrounds are welcome to apply. Knowledge of German is not a prerequisite but good command of English is necessary. Applicants must hold, or about to hold, a master's degree (or equivalent degree) to start their PhD. Candidates with experience in bioinformatics, molecular genetics, entomological experiments and an interest in host-pathogen co-evolution are particularly encouraged to apply. A standard driving licence valid for Germany is essential.

Applications are only accepted via our application portal under apply.idiv.de mentioning the research project number. Candidates must upload a letter of motivation **tailored to the research project**, a curriculum vitae, the digital copy of the highest academic degree (e.g. master's), and the recommendation letters from **two** scientific references. The deadline for application submission is **01 January 2017.**

Selected candidates will be invited for an interview in Leipzig in February, 2017. For queries on the application process, please contact ydiv@idiv.de.

The initial contract is for three years with potential extension. The salary is in accordance with the German public service salary scale (TV-L E 13, 65% of a full time employment).

Specifics:

Title of the doctoral project: *Rapid evolution of RNA viruses as a driver of insect pollinator decline; 34600515#01.*
Supervisors*: Prof. Dr. Paxton, Prof. Dr. Manja Marz, Prof. Dr. Andreas Gogol-Döring.*
Lab website: *www.zoologie.uni-halle.de/allgemeine_zoologie*
Main work location: *Halle (Saale), Germany.*
University affiliation: *Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.*
Contract conditions: *Three-year contract with potential extension. Salary TV-L E13 in accordance with the German public service salary scale. 65% of a full time employment.*
Application: *Motivation letter of up to 2 pages + CV + digital copy of highest degree + two letters of recommendation by senior scientists + proof of English language knowledge.*
To apply, create an account and login on this link and specify the position number 34600515#01.
For question about the research project, contact: robert.paxton@zoologie.uni-halle.de
For queries about the application process, please contact ydiv@idiv.de

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