Vacancy announcement

iDiv, the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research, invites application to a **doctoral position** in **bioinformatics of plant communities** in the group of **Prof. Dr. Dierk Scheel.**

Project:

Our knowledge is limited with regard to the biochemical diversity of plants and the underlying biochemical and ecological mechanisms that enable plants to take a prominent place in a plant community. In this project the doctoral researcher will bring together metabolomics and biodiversity research by 1) establishing a novel experimental and analytical sampling methodology and 2) adapting multivariate statistics and bioinformatic "big-data" processing methods. Here, we combine the pioneering disciplines Eco-Metabolomics (evaluating the diversity of the metabolome within individual species) and Meta-Metabolomics (assessing the biochemical diversity among species as part of the plant community) with regard to different environmental and ecological parameters. This project will also target biochemical patterns and trait relationships between species, communities and the environment. The integrative approach interconnects the research disciplines of bioinformatics, biodiversity, biochemistry and ecology to pioneer analytics and methodology of future Eco-Metabolomics studies.

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 scientists from all backgrounds are welcome to apply. Knowledge in German speaking is not a prerequisite but good command of English is necessary. Applicants must hold, or about to hold, a master degree (or equivalent degree) to start their PhD. Candidates with experience in bioinformatics and/or metabolomics and general interest in plant community ecology are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applications are only accepted via our application portal under apply.idiv.de mentioning the research project number. Candidates will upload a letter of motivation **tailored to the research project**, a curriculum vitae, the digital copy of the highest academic degree (e.g. master), 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: *Boosting Biodiversity with performing Eco- and Meta-Metabolomics for plant communities – Introducing an integrative analytical and bioinformatics approach*; *34600515#03.*
Supervisors*: Prof. Dr. Dierk Scheel, Dr. Steffen Neumann, Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam, Prof. Dr. Helge Bruelheide.*
Lab website: *http://www.ipb-halle.de/en/research/stress-and-developmental-biology/*
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 4 pages + CV + digital copy of highest degree + two letters of recommendation by senior scientists + proofs of English language knowledge.*
To apply create an account and login on on this link and specify the position number 34600515#03.
For question about the research project, contact: Dierk.Scheel@ipb-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.