iDiv, the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research Halle-Jena-Leipzig, invites applications to 6 postdoctoral researcher positions in its 5th flexpool call from fall 2020 onwards (see overview in published flexpool general announcement).

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation iDiv Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position at the earliest possible starting date and initially limited until 30 September 2021:

**Postdoctoral Researcher (m-f-d)**

on the flexpool project 6:

“Darwin’s Naturalization Conundrum Revisited (DANCE) – Darwin meets omics”

as full-time employment, planned for 2 years, an extension to the entire 2 years is dependent upon successful renewal of DFG funding for iDiv (evaluation in spring 2021).

The salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L, if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The workplace will be Halle (Saale).

The project:

We aim to solve the so-called Darwin’s naturalization conundrum by analyzing the similarity between invading plant species and the recipient community along elevation gradients. **Part A** (global; based on existing data from the Mountain Invasion Research Network): Phylogenetic relatedness and similarity in traditional plant functional traits; **Part B** (regional/Tenerife): In-situ collection and analysis of leaf and root metabolites and above- and belowground metabolic similarity.

The project is supervised by Dr. Sylvia Haider (MLU Halle) together with Dr. Steffen Neumann (IPB Halle), Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam, Dr. Henriette Utthe, Dr. Marten Winter (all iDiv) and Prof. Dr. Curtis Daehler (University of Hawaii).

Tasks:

- Compilation of a phylogenetic tree containing all species from our vegetation dataset and analysis of phylogenetic relatedness
- Complementation of the existing in-situ trait data with data from TRY and analysis of functional similarity with single- and multi-trait approaches
- Leaf and root sample collection on Tenerife (planned for May 2021)
- Analysis of metabolites supported by iDiv’s Ecometabolomics platform “EcoMetEoR”
- Alignment and assignment of metabolites and multivariate analysis of metabolic similarity
- Writing and publishing scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences
- If desired: supervision of undergraduate students

Requirements:

- PhD or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g. plant ecology, plant sciences, environmental sciences or chemical ecology)
• Strong background in ecology with an interest in community and trait-based ecology as well as invasion ecology
• Profound expertise in data analyses with R (uni- and multivariate statistics)
• Distinct interest to get familiar with bioinformatics
• Experience with metabolomics or in chemical analyses of plants preferred
• Experience in analyzing phylogenetic data is beneficial
• Willingness for approx. 4 weeks of field work on Tenerife (sample collection)
• International driver’s license (cars) is advantageous
• Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
• Team-oriented and strong organizational skills

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to Mrs. Christa Genz (christa.genz@idiv.de), for project-related questions, please contact Dr. Sylvia Haider (sylvia.haider@botanik.uni-halle.de).

**Submission deadline is 10\textsuperscript{th} September 2020.** Selected candidates will be invited to the online joint recruitment symposium on 28 September until 29 September 2020.

All applications should include:
• Cover letter in English describing motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
• complete curriculum vitae including names and contact details of at least two scientific references
• digital copy of master and PhD certificate or equivalent

Kindly send your application, quoting the **reference number 4-8990/20-D**, via our application portal at [https://apply.idiv.de](https://apply.idiv.de). While we prefer applications via this portal, hard-copy applications may also be sent to: German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv (Halle-Jena-Leipzig), Dr. Christa Genz, Deutscher Platz 5e, 04103 Leipzig.

*The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions. Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.*

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.