Reference Number 278/2020

SCIENTIST (M/F/D) in the Strategic Project 'iDiv PlantHub'

Planned until 30 September 2024 and initially limited until 30 September 2021; an extension to the full project period is dependent upon the successful renewal of DFG funding for iDiv (evaluation in spring 2021)
100% of a full-time position
Planned remuneration: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L
Place of work: Leipzig

Leipzig University seeks to fill the above position funded by the flexible pool mechanism of the **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** at the earliest possible date. The position is located in the WG Systematic Botany and Functional Biodiversity (Wirth/Weigelt lab) and closely collaborates with colleagues at iDiv.

Background

iDiv's mission is to provide the scientific foundation for the sustainable management of the biodiversity on our planet. As a part of this mission iDiv compiles and analyses biodiversity data worldwide. The iDiv consortium is exceptionally rich in plant data. Key data sources include, e.g., a new taxonomic backbone for higher plants (LCVP - Leipzig Catalogue of Vascular Plants), functional trait data (TRY, sRoot), plant community composition data (sPlot, sMon), plant geography data (CDH), phenological data (PhenObs) and data of our own botanical collections. Emerging databases focus on plant distribution ranges, ecometabolomics, demographic rates, plant and pollen images, spectral characteristics, as well as trophic and pollination networks. This is complemented by strong expertise in collating essential covariates for biodiversity analyses, such as data on climate, soil, topography and land-use. Furthermore, iDiv has developed a new graphical approach of displaying and interactively accessing biodiversity information (LifeGate). Its partners run one of Germany's most successful plant identification apps (Flora Incognita). The main goal of the PlantHub project is to foster data synergies for science and application by increasing the joint visibility and accessibility of this unique wealth of resources. This interdisciplinary project will be co-developed with all partners and iDiv's biodiversity informatics experts.

Tasks (for entire project period)
- Developing a governance, a communication strategy and a 'meta-curation' approach for the PlantHub project
- Develop workflows and complement existing databases with key links to maximize interoperability and to leverage iDiv's diverse data resources
- Lead and coordinate the creation of a new and attractive portal for easy exploration of and access to iDiv's plant data and covariates for basic and applied science including phylogeny- (LifeGate) and map-based frontends for information access and upload
- Support and apply the development of knowledge graphs within the iKNOW project as a key tool for joint access to heterogeneous (big)data sources
- Support the acquisition of third-party funds for linking PlantHub with Flora Incognita
- Writing and publishing scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences

Requirements
- PhD or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g. biology, environmental sciences, biodiversity informatics); a MSc degree is acceptable given relevant and substantial work experience
- Expertise in conducting science using large biodiversity databases; a botanical focus is a plus
- Strong skills in quantitative data-analysis (e.g. data management, advanced statistics, programming)

- Team-oriented; excellent communication and project management skills
- Interest and ability in conducting interdisciplinary research bridging biodiversity and computer sciences
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)

Kindly send your application, quoting the reference number 278/2020, via our application portal at https://apply.idiv.de. Hard copy applications can be sent to:

German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv
Human Resources Department
Deutscher Platz 5 e, D-04103 Leipzig

Submission deadline is 10 October 2020. Selected candidates will be invited to an online interview.

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

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to iDiv HR (application@idiv.de), for project-related questions, please contact Professor Christian Wirth (cwirth@uni-leipzig.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 is not entirely secure 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.