Job advertisement

Vacancy ID: 230/2021

Closing date: 25 July 2021

FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-UNIVERSITÄT JENA

iDiv German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig

Friedrich Schiller University is a traditional university with a strong research profile rooted in the heart of Germany. As a university covering all disciplines, it offers a wide range of subjects. Its research is focused on the areas Light—Life—Liberty. It is closely networked with non-research institutions, research companies and renowned cultural institutions. With around 18,000 students and more than 8,600 employees, the university plays a major role in shaping Jena's character as a cosmopolitan and future-oriented city.

The Institute of Biodiversity and iDiv seek to fill the position of a

Doctoral Researcher (f/m/d)

on the iDiv flexpool project "Traversing the canopy – how do transport processes of microbes and matter shape phyllosphere microbial communities?"

commencing on October 1st, 2021. The position is initially limited until 30 September 2024, subject to the further formal approval of funding of iDiv. This is a part-time position with 65% of the working hours of a full-time employee (26 hour per week)

Background

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. It is jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), the University of Leipzig (UL), and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). For more information please visit: www.idiv.de.

The project aims at understanding key controls of microbial diversity in forest tree canopies. We are seeking applicants who are interested in working in an interdisciplinary project integrating aspects of microbial ecology, geochemistry, and plant functional ecology with a strong integration of field work. The doctoral researcher will tackle the question how transport processes of microbes and nutrients within tree canopies, mediated by throughfall and stemflow, shape phyllosphere and cortisphere microbial communities. In addition, the project will look into how these relationships are modulated by phenology driven changes of the plant host. The project is supervised by Dr. Martina Herrmann (Institute of Biodiversity) and Prof. Dr. Beate Michalzik (Institute of Geography) and will be carried out in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Christian Wirth (Leipzig University). Place of work is Jena.

Your responsibilities:

- Regular sampling of leaves and bark, throughfall and stemflow within tree canopies at the Leipzig Canopy Crane facility
- Analysis of microbial communities of phyllosphere, cortisphere, throughfall and stemflow using molecular approaches/amplicon sequencing

- Preparation of water samples for chemical analysis using ICP-OES, TOC-VCPN/TNM, and HPLC, and data analysis
- Characterization of phyllosphere and cortisphere microhabitat conditions by chemical analysis and electron microscopy
- Writing and publishing scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences

Your profile:

- M.Sc. or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g. microbiology, ecology, environmental sciences, biogeosciences)
- Expertise and experience in methods of molecular microbial ecology
- Strong statistical skills (e. g., in R)
- Interest and ability in interdisciplinary research and field work
- Ability to work in 30 m height in a gondola attached to a crane at the canopy crane facility
- Driving licence would be advantageous
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Team-oriented and strong organizational skills

We offer:

- Interdisciplinary research at the interface of Microbial Ecology, Biogeochemistry and Plant Ecology
- Excellent equipment and infrastructure
- A Graduate Academy for doctoral candidates and postdocs at FSU and integration in iDiv's graduate school yDiv
- University health promotion and a wide range of university sports activities
- Remuneration based on the provisions of the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector of the Federal States (TV-L) at salary scale 13—depending on the candidate's personal qualifications—, including a special annual payment in accordance with the collective agreement.

Candidates with severe disabilities will be given preference in the case of equal qualifications and suitability.

Are you eager to work with us? Kindly send your application, quoting the vacancy ID 230/2021, via our application portal at https://apply.idiv.de **by 25 July 2021**. 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, Puschstr. 4, 04103 Leipzig.

Selected candidates will be invited to give a short presentation and a personal interview with the project leaders in the first half of August 2021.

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All applications should include:

- cover letter 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 certificate or equivalent

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to Mrs. Christa Genz (christa.genz@idiv.de), for project-related questions, please contact contact Dr. Martina Herrmann (martina.herrmann@uni-jena.de).

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.

For further information for applicants, please also refer to www4.uni-jena.de/stellenmarkt_hinweis.html (in German)
Please also note the information on the collection of personal data at www4.uni-jena.de/en/jobs_information_collecting_personal_data.html