



Reference number 375/2022

Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d) “Multidiversity-Multifunctionality” in the Experimental Interaction Ecology Group

Founded in 1409, Leipzig University is one of Germany’s largest universities and a leader in research and medical training. With around 30,000 students and more than 5000 members of staff across 14 faculties, it is at the heart of the vibrant and outward-looking city of Leipzig. Leipzig University offers an innovative and international working environment as well as an exciting range of career opportunities in research, teaching, knowledge and technology transfer, infrastructure and administration.

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. Located in the city of Leipzig, it is a Central Institution of Leipzig University and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More information about iDiv: www.idiv.de

Leipzig University seeks to fill the above position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig at the earliest opportunity, ideally by March 2023.

Global change is altering above-belowground multitrophic communities (of animals, plant, and microbes), with consequences for ecosystem processes and multifunctionality. The ecosystem-wide effects of such changes depend on the joint interplay of various taxa and their biological, mostly trophic, interactions. Using a combination of approaches, we aim to test the ecosystem-level consequences of multitrophic biodiversity decline. We aim to test how the exclusion of certain taxa, such as e.g. arthropod herbivores, molluscs, or fungal pathogens impacts above-belowground multitrophic communities in their species composition, richness, biomass, functional diversity, and the energy flux through the food webs they comprise. Building on the recently established BugNet (<https://bug-net.org/>) experiment in Bad Lauchstädt, “BadBug”, and including additional datasets from grassland global-change experiments, the doctoral researcher will investigate how above-belowground multifunctionality, multitrophic interaction networks, and energy fluxes respond to invertebrate decline. The project is supervised by **Dr Malte Jochum** and **Professor Nico Eisenhauer**.

About the position

- Fixed term depending on planned academic training, based on the German Act on Fixed-Term Employment Contracts in Academia (WissZeitVG), 65% of a full-time position
- Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L
- Place of work: Leipzig.

Duties

- Coordination of the Bad Lauchstädt **BugNet** (<https://bug-net.org/>) experiment **BadBug** (<https://www.idiv.de/de/gruppen-und-personen/kerngruppen/experimentelle-interaktionsoekologie/forschungsgebiete.html>)
- Application of biocides for arthropod-herbivore, mollusc, and fungi exclusion
- Field sampling, identification, and assessment of above- and belowground invertebrate fauna
- Assessment of above-belowground abiotic and biotic processes
- Analysis of experimental-treatment effects on invertebrate communities (richness, biomass, composition, traits, etc.), ecosystem processes, and multifunctionality
- Combining invertebrate data with microbial, vegetation, and abiotic data to comprehensively assess above-belowground interdependencies and treatment effects
- Synthesis and analysis of large, multivariate datasets
- Calculation of energy flux through above-belowground interaction networks
- Analysis of related datasets on multifunctionality responses to global change in general and invertebrate declines in particular.

Requirements

- Master’s or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g. ecology, environmental sciences)

- Very good ecological knowledge and strong interest in multitrophic interactions and biodiversity research
- Very good quantitative and statistical skills in R are essential
- Field-work experience, especially with above-belowground invertebrate sampling, herbivory, and plant-trait assessments, is advantageous
- A clear drive to do science, and follow a hypothesis-driven approach
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Basic German communication skills would be advantageous
- Flexible and well-organized, hands-on mentality
- Motivation to be a proactive team player in an international research consortium.

What we offer

- A vibrant, international research environment and highly motivated working group at iDiv
- Close collaboration with colleagues at UFZ, with the BugNet coordinators in Bern, and the global BugNet consortium – possibility of visiting collaborators
- Possibility to develop the research topic and suggest additional aspects to study within and beyond the BugNet consortium
- A modern workplace and attractive working conditions (mobile working)
- Flexible working hours and work-life balance
- Goal-oriented staff development throughout your working life, with opportunities for continuing professional development
- Participation in yDiv, the iDiv graduate school (<https://www.idiv.de/en/ydiv/graduate-school.html>).

Applications should include:

- The usual documents (including cover letter describing the applicant's motivation for the project, research interests, and relevant experience)
- Contact details of at least two scientific referees
- Digital copy of master's certificate or equivalent.

Kindly send your application, quoting reference number 375/2022, via our application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de> by **3 January 2023**. While we prefer applications via our application portal, hard-copy applications can also be sent to: German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv, Professor Nico Eisenhauer, Puschstraße 4, 04103 Leipzig. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee confidentiality and rule out unauthorised access by third parties when communicating by unencrypted email. We kindly request that you submit copies only, as we are unable to return application documents. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

For queries on the application process, please contact our HR Department (hr@idiv.de); for project-related questions, please contact **Dr Malte Jochum** (malte.jochum@idiv.de).

Severely disabled persons – or persons deemed legally equal to them under Book IX of the German Social Code – are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

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

If you choose to apply and send us your documents, you do so voluntarily. Any personal data contained within your application documents, or obtained during an interview, will be processed by Leipzig University – as the advertiser of the position – exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. It will not be passed on to third parties without your consent in the individual case. The legal basis for such data processing is Sect. 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, specified in the advertisement.

Your personal data will be stored for six months after the end of the recruitment process and then erased or destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations. You may refuse or withdraw your consent with effect for the future without giving reasons. In these cases, Leipzig University will not or no longer be able to process and consider your application. Under 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.