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 German Centre for integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig seeks to fill the position of a

Scientific Employee

on the iDiv Flexpool Project: “Cryptic diversity and evolution in Orthoptera: A continent-wide perspective”

commencing on 1 January 2024 or at the earliest opportunity and limited to 31 December 2025. The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions and dependent upon final approval of funding.

This is a full-time position with 40 hours per week; place of work is the Population Ecology Group at the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, FSU Jena.

Background:

Orthopterans (crickets, bush-crickets and grasshoppers) are a highly diverse group of insects with unusually large genomes, high genome fluidity and reproductive diversity. The project will characterize genome size, karyotype diversity and sperm morphology across the European orthopteran fauna. The data will allow the reconstruction of ancestral states, an inference of evolutionary trajectories and testing for associations with ecological parameters. This will thus provide insights into the drivers of cryptic diversity in an important insect group on a continent-wide scale. The project will be carried out in collaboration with researchers from the three iDiv institutions: Prof. Holger Schielzeth and Dr. Octavio Palacios-Gimenez at the FSU Jena, Prof. Claudia Fricke at the MLU Halle and Dr. Susanne Duncker Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) Leipzig.

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.

Your responsibilities:

- Karyotyping of Orthoptera
- Genome size quantification using flow cytometry
- Quantification of sperm diversity in Orthoptera
- Optionally supplementary field sampling of Orthoptera
- Preparation of project-relevant manuscripts
Your profile:

- Scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in biology, preferentially related to insects and/or cytology a doctoral degree is desirable
- At least three years of experience in research and in the publication of scientific results
- Expertise with cytology, genome size quantification and/or sperm analysis is desirable
- Demonstrated skills in data analyses
- Experience with preparing high-impact manuscripts for international journals
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Team-oriented attitude with interest and ability in interdisciplinary research and organizational skills

We offer:

- Work in a dynamic, international, and interdisciplinary environment in the beautiful city of Jena
- Opportunities to develop and advance scientific networks
- Flexible working hours and a family-friendly working environment
- Participation in our iDiv career support programme
- Modern equipment for data collection, including flow cytometers at the iDiv support unit iCyt.
- Attractive fringe benefits, e.g. capital formation benefits (VL) and an occupational pension (VBL)
- Remuneration based on the provisions of the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector of the Federal States (TV-L) at salary scale E13—depending on the candidate’s personal qualifications—, including a special annual payment in accordance with the collective agreement
- 30 days of vacation per calendar year plus two days off on December 24 and 31

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to flexpool@idiv.de, for project-related questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Holger Schielzeth (holger.schielzeth@uni-jena.de).

All applications should include:

- Cover letter describing the 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

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 216/2023, via our application portal at https://apply.idiv.de by 18 August 2023. 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), Scientific Networks, Puschstr. 4, 04103 Leipzig.

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 and the information on the collection of personal data, please refer to https://www.uni-jena.de/en/job-market