

Two PhD positions in wild bee ecology (SFB 1047)

“Timing of seasonal activity in wild bee – plant interactions”

Rationale

Mutualistic interactions strongly depend on the exact timing of both partners. Temporal mismatches will disrupt such interactions and possibly reduce the fitness of the partners. In a new project, we will study the mechanisms that are involved in the timing of wild bees and their food plants, the fitness consequences that might result from temporal mismatches (e.g. after climate change), and the strategies that partners apply to (re-)synchronize their interactions. In the framework of the recently approved, DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre 1047 on *Insect timing: mechanisms, plasticity and interactions* we offer two PhD positions in wild bee ecology. The successful candidates will perform experiments in real landscapes, in flight cages and in climate chambers to assess the mechanisms of synchronization, the probability of temporal mismatches in wild bee – plant interactions, and the fitness consequences under current and simulated conditions as they might result from climate change. The PhD positions will be located at the University of Würzburg, Germany (<http://www.zoo3.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/>).

Requirements

Applicants should have a MSc or Diploma degree in ecology or related disciplines and combine a strong expertise in experimental field research, statistical data analysis (in R) and scientific writing in English. Knowledge and interest in applied entomology, global change research, pollination, the identification of bees and flowering plants, and GIS are desirable. Practical skills in performing ecological field experiments are highly valued and a driver license is required. The candidates are expected to work both individually and in team and to be able to integrate into an interdisciplinary project.

Salary and conditions

Salary and benefits are according to public service positions in Germany (TVL 13 - 65%, net income per month is ca. 1300 €). Start date: **1st February 2013** (negotiable). The positions are for three years. The doctoral thesis will be done as a series of English manuscripts. We offer the membership in a friendly, enthusiastic and ambitious young research team, modern facilities and the participation in a new Collaborative Research Centre.

Applications

Please send your application as a single pdf file per-email to andrea.holzschuh@uni-wuerzburg.de latest until **18th December 2012**. Applications should include a cover letter, a short summary of research interests, CV, complete certificates, and the names (with email addresses) of two potential referees. The review of applications will start **on 19th December 2012**. Interviews of invited candidates will be held on **9th of January 2013**.

For further information, please contact

per email: andrea.holzschuh@uni-wuerzburg.de

Dr. Andrea Holzschuh, Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, Biocentre, University of Würzburg, Am Hubland, 97074 Würzburg, Germany

