

PhD position in honeybee ecology (SFB 1047)

“Timing of colony phenology and foraging activity in honeybees”

Rationale

The social life history strategy of the honey bee puts high demands on the seasonal timing of colony development and the efficient use of floral resources that show large daily and seasonal variability. Global change with more frequent extreme climatic events might cause mismatches of colony development with abiotic and biotic environmental conditions. Genetic diversity has been shown to increase colony fitness but its role in buffering seasonal environmental fluctuations and enhancing adaptation to altered climatic conditions is little understood. In the framework of the recently approved, DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre 1047 on *Insect timing: mechanisms, plasticity and interactions* we offer a PhD position in honeybee ecology. The successful candidate will perform large-scale field experiments with honeybee colonies to study the timing of brood phenology, fitness consequences of genetic diversity and the role of honeybee communication in the context of climate and land use change. The PhD position 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 interest and expertise in experimental field research, statistical data analysis (preferably in R) and scientific writing in English. Knowledge and interest in animal ecology, applied entomology, global change research, plant-animal interactions, pollination and GIS are desirable. Practical skills in keeping honeybees and performing ecological field experiments are highly valued and a driver license is required. The candidate is 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 position is 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 ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de and stephan.haertel@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

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