PhD position in Soil Biology/Microbial Ecology

Mineral surfaces as hotspots for microbes and element cycling

We invite applications for a PhD position in an interdisciplinary DFG research project at the University of Hohenheim. The position is limited to three years and should start in April or May 2020. The salary is in accordance with the German Public Service salary scale (TV-L E13, 65%).

The project is part of a long-term exposure of pristine minerals being exposed to grassland and forest soils within the Biodiversity Exploratories (https://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de). The mineralosphere, where reactive surfaces of soil minerals meet microbial life, is characterized by biotic and abiotic interactions. The interplay of microbial colonization, and sorption and release of organic matter as well as nutrients within the mineralosphere has immediate consequences for carbon and nutrient storage and availability in soil. The focus of the project is to understand the microbial colonization of the exposed minerals and the functional role of mineral-associated microorganisms.

The responsibility of the PhD candidate will be to determine microbial community composition and functions in the mineralosphere and the bulk soil of forest and grassland sites. The PhD candidate will perform microbiological, biochemical and molecular methods. The PhD candidate will closely collaborate with two other PhD students focusing on surface properties and nutrient accumulation of the mineralosphere.

Qualifications
Master's degree in microbial ecology, environmental sciences, geocology, soil science or similar
Experience in lab and field work
Familiar with molecular biological methods and statistics
Proficiency in English and very good writing skills

The University of Hohenheim is equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be favored. Please send your application with documents (application letter, CV, copies of records of your BSc and MSc, documents showing research experience if applicable, contact information of references and a letter of motivation) in electronic form as a single pdf-file to Prof Dr. Ellen Kandeler (ellen.kandeler@uni-hohenheim.de). Review of applications will start on February 15, 2020, and will continue until the position is filled.

For additional information please contact:
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