Job announcement ref. # 11-20002

The Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung (SGN), a member institution of the Leibniz Association, with almost 800 employees and its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, is conducting integrative natural history research with leading research institutions in six federal states. The Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (SBiK-F) explores interactions between biodiversity and climate.

For the research project **Drivers of recruitment and diversity in symbioses: assessing changes in fungal, algal, and bacterial communities of the lichen holobiont along land use gradients (SYMBIODRIVE)**, we invite applications for a

**PhD candidate (m/f/d) in Microbial Ecology/Lichen Ecology**

(36 months, TV-H E13, 65% position)

SYMBIODRIVE is a project funded by the German research foundation (DFG) within the Priority Program Biodiversity Exploratories ([https://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de](https://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de)).

The goal of this project is to better understand recruitment and community assembly of the different microorganismal groups constituting the lichen holobiont, and shed light on filtering effects of forest management practices on biotic interactions. More generally, the project will contribute to understanding coexistence and diversity maintenance within biological communities, as well as the dynamics among aboveground and belowground microorganismal communities (fungi, bacteria, algae) in forest ecosystems. To achieve these goals we will I) assess the diversity and overlap of fungal, algal and bacterial communities associated with the lichen holobiont and the microbial communities found on bark and in soil in all 150 EP forest plots; and II) model the response of these microorganismal communities to individual forest features, and to increasing land-use intensity.

**Your tasks**

- Field collections of lichens and tree-associated microbial communities
- Metabarcoding of fungal, algal, and bacterial communities
- Bioinformatic processing of high throughput sequence data, and ecological modeling
- Publication of the results in peer-reviewed journals
- Support coordination and development of the project

**Your profile**

- Completed Master's degree in Ecological Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, Ecology and Evolution, or similar
- Experience in the analysis of ecological data, ecological field work, and/or molecular lab work
- Experience or strong interest in using high throughput sequence data, bioinformatics, ecological modeling
- Ability to effectively communicate and organize workflows, and to closely collaborate in teams
- Fluency in English as working language, and excellent writing skills
What is awaiting you?

✓ An interesting task in an international research project
✓ The possibility to build your scientific network at an international level, work in a cohort of PhD students, enjoy access to infrastructure, workshops, and expertise within the DFG Exploratories
✓ Access to the graduate program GRADE at Goethe University Frankfurt (https://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54290205/Your_path_to_a_PhD?)
✓ A workplace close to the city center of Frankfurt a lively and diverse city with high life quality
✓ Flexible working hours; Senckenberg badge for free entry in museums in Frankfurt; a family-conscious personnel policy (“audit berufundfamilie”)

Salary and benefits are in accordance with a public service position in Germany (collective agreement TV-H E13 with 65% of the regular working hours, i.e. 26 hours/week). The position will ideally start in April or May 2020 and is limited to three years.

The Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (SBiK-F) supports equal opportunity of men and women and therefore strongly invites women to apply. Equally qualified handicapped applicants will be given preference.

The place of work is in Frankfurt am Main at the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (SBiK-F). The employer is the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung.

We look forward to your application!

Please send your application, mentioning the reference of this job offer (ref. #11-20002) by February 9th, 2020 (deadline) by e-mail (attachment in a single pdf document) and including
✓ a cover letter describing your suitability and motivation
✓ a detailed CV
✓ your credentials and certificates
✓ and contact details of two potential references to:

Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung
Senckenberanlage 25
60325 Frankfurt
E-Mail: recruiting@senckenberg.de

For scientific enquiries please get in contact with Prof. Dr. Imke Schmitt, via e-mail: imke.schmitt@senckenberg.de.