

## **Job offering**

The Chair of Global Change Ecology, Biocenter, at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU), Germany, is inviting applications for a

### **PhD Position (m/f/d) in Community Ecology.**

The position will be available to start as soon as possible and will be fixed term for an initial period of three years with the possibility of an extension. The position is part time (0.65 FTE) and will be based at the recently established Junior Professorship for Above-belowground Interaction Ecology. Remuneration will be based on the Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder (collective agreement for the public service of German federal states, TV-L).

Our working group investigates global-change impacts on multitrophic communities in combined above-belowground systems, mostly in temperate grasslands and forests. The successful applicant will focus on the MultiCrossBEF project assessing land-use impacts on above-belowground arthropod food webs, energy flux, and multitrophic ecosystem functioning in the grasslands of the Biodiversity Exploratories, a large-scale, long-term collaborative research project studying the impacts of land-use intensity across three regions from Northwest to Southeast Germany. They will combine data synthesis of existing long-term data sets with novel above-belowground arthropod sampling in grassland sites across Germany. Based on these data, they will use novel methods to assess basal resources, trophic position, and resource pools of arthropod consumers, establish above-belowground arthropod food webs, calculate energy flux through these networks and assess ecosystem processes and multifunctionality. We have established an exciting work programme, but are open to additional ideas by the applicant.

#### **The successful applicant will predominantly be involved in the following tasks:**

- Coordination, planning, and conducting extensive field work in temperate grassland systems,
- Identification of above-belowground invertebrate fauna,
- Preparing and conducting laboratory analyses of trophic interactions with novel methods,
- Establishment of food webs and calculation of energy flux through trophic networks,
- Analysis of complex ecological data,
- Preparation, publication, and presentation of results,
- Supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses and assisting with the teaching of classes

#### **The following qualifications are required:**

- A university degree (MSc) or equivalent in ecology or a related field (e.g., environmental sciences),
- Very good ecological knowledge, strong interest in multitrophic communities under global change,
- Field-work experience, especially with above-belowground invertebrate sampling,
- Experience in identifying invertebrates and in lab work,
- Very good quantitative and ecological statistical skills using R,
- A valid drivers license,
- Excellent English written and verbal communication skills,
- Basic German communication skills would be advantageous but are not a requirement,
- The ability to work independently and as a part of an interdisciplinary team

We offer the opportunity to work as part of a young and cooperative research team, modern facilities and the opportunity to work in an international research environment. This position comes with the opportunity to collaborate with and visit several other ecological research groups throughout Germany (e.g., in Cottbus, Göttingen, and Leipzig). We attach great importance to providing a healthy work environment including flexible working hours, the option to work from home, and access to the support systems of the University. The JMU offers a structured Graduate School programme and additional courses to improve your scientific and soft skills.

The JMU aims to reduce the underrepresentation of women and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will be given preferential consideration in the case of broadly equal suitability, ability and professional achievements.

For further information, please contact Prof. Jochum via email or phone (+49 931 31-80482). Applications should include a motivation letter with a summary of your relevant research experience and a description of your future research interests, a CV, certificates and the names and email addresses of two scientific referees. Please do not send any original documents, only photocopies, as we will not be able to return your documents.

Please send your application – preferably via email as a single PDF file – to:

Prof. Dr. Malte Jochum  
Above-belowground Interaction Ecology  
Universität Würzburg  
John-Skilton-Str. 4a  
– Postzentrum Hubland Nord –  
97074 Würzburg, Germany

The closing date for applications is August 27th, 2023.

[malte.jochum@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:malte.jochum@uni-wuerzburg.de)

Please send copies of documents only. For cost reasons, application documents cannot be returned. Documents will be destroyed as soon as the selection procedure has been completed. If you enclose a postage-paid envelope, the application documents will be returned to you by three months after the end of the selection procedure.

