

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Doctoral student (f/m/d) in Eukaryotic Microbial Ecology

Institute for Zoology – Terrestrial Ecology

The University of Cologne is one of the largest and most research-intensive universities in Germany, offering a wide range of subjects. With its six faculties and its interfaculty centres, it offers a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines and internationally outstanding profile areas, supported by the administration with its services.

This PhD project is part of the DFG priority programme "Antarctic Research with Comparative Investigations in Arctic Ice Areas" (SPP158). The Polar Regions become increasingly warmer, and as a consequence they turn "greener". Biological soil crusts, in which cyanobacteria and algae are the main components, are the dominant vegetation in Polar Regions. It is especially unclear what kind of consumers are sustained by those primary producers. The chosen candidate will investigate microeukaryotic predators of terrestrial algae in the Polar Regions. The candidate will make use of culture-based and environmental sequencing approaches. Generated data will be analysed by bioinformatic means, including network-analyses and statistics.

YOUR TASKS

- » Development of novel taxon-specific primer sets including performance tests via cloning
- » Sampling of biological soil crusts in the Antarctica and Arctica
- » DNA-based environmental sequencing and data analyses
- » Protist cultivation and phylogenetic identification
- » Food range experiments
- » Network analyses
- » Presentation of results on conferences and in publications

YOUR PROFILE

- » Master's degree in Biology (or equivalent)
- » Deep interest in (eukaryotic) microbiology
- » Very good English language skills
- » A certain background in bioinformatics and ecological data analyses is highly appreciated

WE OFFER YOU

- » a young research team with passion for microbial ecology, diversity and evolution
- » a diverse and fair working environment
- » support in reconciling work and family life
- » flexible working time models
- » extensive advanced training opportunities
- » occupational health management offers
- » local transport ticket at a discount for UoC employees

The position is available from 01.04.2021 on a part-time basis (67%). It is limited to a term of 3 years. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is based on remuneration group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

The University of Cologne is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. Women are especially encouraged to apply and will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from people with disabilities / special needs or of equal status.

Please apply online at: <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de> with proof of the sought qualifications. The reference number is Wiss2012-16.

The application deadline is 15.01.2021.

