

## PhD Position in Insect Ecology (SFB 1047)

### “Timing and phenology shifts in interacting plant – herbivore – predator systems”

#### **Rationale**

Biotic interactions between species are central drivers for the coexistence of species. Thereby timing and phenology of species must be harmonized to allow such interactions, but might be disrupted due to climate change. In this study we focus on a multi-trophic food chain, an endophytic fungus and its host grass, an aphid and its ladybird predators. 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 insect ecology. The successful candidate will conduct climate chamber experiments measuring fitness and wing induction in aphids and/or phytometer and enclosure experiments in the field shifting the different trophic levels. RT-PCR and chemical analyses will be also part of the project. 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 with a strong expertise in plant-insect interactions and experimental ecology. Knowledge in at least some of the fields of microbial or chemical ecology, ecological field or laboratory experiments, insect rearing skills, RT-PCR and statistics preferably in R is desirable. A driver license is of advantage. English speaking and writing skills are required. A broad background in ecological theory and hypothesis testing is necessary, preferably shown with an English manuscript or publication. The candidates are 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 [j.krauss@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:j.krauss@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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