

2 PhD positions (m/f/d) (UNIVERSITÄT WÜRZBURG)

Bewerbungsfrist: 13.12.2020

Two PhD positions in Tree Ecophysiology (m/f/d)

Two PhD positions are available to start on February 1, 2021 at the Chair of Ecophysiology and Vegetation Ecology of the Julius-von-Sachs-Institute for Biosciences, University of Würzburg, Germany (<https://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/bot2/research/mitarbeiter/prof-dr-bernhard-schuldt-en/>).

The salary will be paid according to the collective agreement for the public service of German federal states (TV-L, 65% position) for the duration of three years, but at most until January 31, 2024.

Project description: Given impending climate warming and the increase in frequency and intensity of drought- and heat waves in Central Europe, identification of tree species that can cope with these environmental pressures is of great importance. Since the extreme 2018/19 drought, non-native temperate tree species from Northern America and Central or East Asia are frequently referred to as an all-in-one solution. However, given that several of these species have likewise evolved in a humid-cold climate, it remains questionable whether they indeed are more drought-stress resistant than native Central European species. Dendroecological and ecophysiological variables at the wood and leaf level, foremost plant hydraulic measures, will be used to characterize the drought-stress resistance and mortality risk of pairings of native and non-native temperate tree species belonging to eight genera. In addition, long-term provenance trials established in the 1980s will be used for characterizing the intra-specific trait variability of two non-native and one native coniferous tree species across environmental gradients.

Requirements: Applicants should hold a very good master or diploma degree in biology, forestry, environmental sciences, or a related discipline. Candidates with field and laboratory research experience in plant hydraulics, wood anatomy or dendroecology are preferred. Due to intensive fieldwork, a driving licence is a prerequisite. Advanced command of English and the ability to write scientific manuscripts is essential, while advanced knowledge in statistical analyses with R is a plus. We are looking for an outstanding and highly motivated candidate, who is team-oriented and willing to learn and work independently and precisely, both in the lab and in the field. The University of Würzburg is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for female scientists and scholars. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Severely disabled persons with equivalent aptitude for the position will be favoured.

Application: Applications including a letter of motivation, research experience, CV with degree, certificates and grades, copies of publications if available and the names and contact information of two references should be sent by **December 13, 2020** as a single pdf-document to Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schuldt (bernhard.schuldt@uni-wuerzburg.de), or to the address given below:

Julius-Maximilian-University of Würzburg, Julius-von-Sachs-Institute of Biological Sciences, Chair of Ecophysiology and Vegetation Ecology, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schuldt, Julius-von-Sachs-Platz 3, 97082 Würzburg.

Virtual interviews will take place in late December. Please note that we explicitly prefer digital documents by email, and do not return any original documents sent to us by mail; these will be shredded after a decision has been made. Only if you enclose a postage-paid return envelope, we will return your documents three months after a hiring decision has been made.