

PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG, HS ROTTENBURG)

Bewerbungsfrist: 25.05.2022

The DFG-funded Research Training Group 2123 “Conservation of Forest Biodiversity in Multiple-use Landscapes of Central Europe” (ConFoBi) at the Albert - Ludwigs University of Freiburg in close cooperation with the University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg invites applications for a position in the B10 project, “Light - a limiting resource for diurnal butterflies in forests” (65% TVL-E13). The position is available for three years, starting ideally 1 st of August 2022.

The Research Training Group ConFoBi offers an inter- and transdisciplinary biodiversity research and qualification program, which draws its novelty from the combination of multi-scale ecological studies on forest biodiversity with social and economic studies of biodiversity conservation. A strong interest in interdisciplinary research and the willingness to engage in scientific exchange with other disciplines is essential. For more details see <https://confobi.uni-freiburg.de/>.

Successful applicants will (1) hold a M.Sc. degree (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline, (2) good statistical skills and knowledge of qualitative research designs, (3) are fluent in spoken and written English, and (4) are motivated to join and actively contribute to an inter- and transdisciplinary research training environment. In return, applicants will profit from the excellent infrastructure and store of knowledge and experience in the study system at ConFoBi.

The project focuses on the relationship between the occurrence and abundance of open-forest inhabiting butterfly species and light heterogeneity supported by retention forestry. The landscape context will be considered to study the influences of the landscape matrix surrounding ConFoBi sites on the occurrence and abundance of forest butterfly species. The main tasks will be:

1. Movements and resource selection of selected butterfly species will be recorded with the capture-mark-recapture method and radiotracking using NanoPin transmitters in the Southern Black Forest. Preimaginal stages of selected butterfly species will be searched by systematic sampling of their food plants.
2. The influence of the landscape matrix and the distance between suitable larval and adult butterfly habitats will be analyzed in order to consider the role of light availability and heterogeneity within forests.
3. Links between occurrence and abundance of different taxa and light availability shall be investigated. Advanced statistical methods will be used to test the relationship between those taxa and light heterogeneity in forests (joint publication).

The candidate should therefore have experience in field research (e.g. butterfly sampling methods, plant-insect interactions, radio-tracking), practical skills in butterfly and plant identification, use of GIS and a valid B driver's license.

Please send your CV, your letter of motivation, your Master's degree and the contact details of two senior researchers to confobi@uni-freiburg.de as one pdf until the **25.05.22**.