

PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM)

Bewerbungsfrist: 30.09.2021

PhD position (65%) in Multitrophic Interactions

The *Ecology of Tropical Agricultural Systems* group at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart (Germany) welcomes applications for a **Research Assistant (PhD position) (f/m/d)** with 65% of the regular working time (corresponding to 25.9 hours/week) with a limited contract for 3 years (36 months). Preferred starting date is 1 January 2022. The position is remunerated according to the German grade E13 TV-L. The position can serve the qualification of young scientists and offers the possibility of a doctorate.

Your tasks

The study of species interactions in ecological networks is a powerful way to explore the structure, function, and dynamics of ecological systems. However, network studies typically focus on single interaction types, e.g., plant-pollinator or plant-herbivore, despite the fact that most species engage in multiple interaction types (e.g., plant species interacting with both pollinators and herbivores, or pollinators with plants and parasitoids). Multilayer networks provide a framework for extending classical ecological network analysis to include different interaction types as well as species communities across different habitats. We want to understand how the complexity (composition, configuration) of agricultural landscapes affects the structure of multilayer networks. The PhD-candidate will study multilayer networks including plant-pollinator, plant-herbivore and host-parasitoid interactions across (semi)natural and agricultural habitats. Species roles in networks will be linked to functional traits (e.g., body size, habitat specialization) as well as reproductive outcomes. Fieldwork will take place in southwestern Germany, in the agricultural landscapes surrounding Stuttgart and on the Swabian Alb. The position includes a teaching obligation of 2.6 h per week during the semester.

Your profile

We are looking for a highly motivated and team-oriented staff member with a very good degree (M.Sc. or equivalent) in ecology, biology or related fields (landscape conservation, etc.). Candidates should be able to conduct extensive field and laboratory work and have a high degree of organizational skills and the ability to coordinate field surveys and co-supervise research assistants. Solid knowledge of ecological statistics (using R) is mandatory. Relevant knowledge of insect taxonomy is advantageous. Good teamwork and communication skills as well as very good English skills and a car driver's license are important prerequisites. The candidate is expected to present the studies at international conferences and publish results in peer-reviewed international journals.

Additional benefits

We offer a stimulating research environment in a young and international research group. The position is intended to serve the qualification of young scientists and offers the possibility of a doctorate. Using a broad methodological spectrum and interdisciplinary approaches, our group aims to better understand and forecast biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in agricultural landscapes under global change (see <https://agroecology.uni-hohenheim.de>). The University of Hohenheim is located on a beautiful campus situated in the southern German city of Stuttgart, which offers a rich cultural life and attractive surroundings (Swabian Alb, Black Forest).

Application

Please send your complete application documents as single pdf-file including a letter of motivation, CV, copies of relevant degrees, and contact details of two referees **until 30 September** to ingo.grass@uni-hohenheim.de. The University of Hohenheim seeks to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and strongly encourages qualified female scientists to apply. With equal qualifications, preference will be given to candidates with disabilities.

Contact

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<https://agroecology.uni-hohenheim.de>