iDiv German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig

External Job Announcement
Reg.-Nr. 4-4758/22-D

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position, **starting from 1 October 2022** or at the earliest opportunity and limited to 30 September 2024:

Postdoctoral Researcher – Evolutionary ecology (m/f/d) - "Disease dynamics in insect societies"

as full-time employment (100%).

The salary will be up to the German salary scale 13 TV-L if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The main workplace will be in Jena in the research group of Dr. Yuko Ulrich with regular visits to the research group of Prof Robert Paxton at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

The project:

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in integrative biodiversity research. It is located in the city of Leipzig and it is a central institution of the Leipzig University, jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More information about iDiv: www.idiv.de

We are looking for a dynamic, creative, and collaborative postdoctoral scientist to join an interdisciplinary team working at the intersection of behavioral ecology and epidemiology. The project will take place at the **Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena**, Germany (www.ice.mpg.de), in the Social Behavior group headed by Dr. Yuko Ulrich (www.ulrichlab.com), in close collaboration with the General Zoology headed by Prof. Robert Paxton at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Halle, Germany.

The project aims to investigate disease dynamics in colonies of the clonal raider ant by developing a virus–ant model and experimentally studying the impact of social network structure on viral spread in social groups. This is a collaborative project combining the expertise of the Social Behavior group (ant behavior, automated behavioral tracking, social networks) and the group of Prof. Paxton (insect viral pathogens, disease ecology). The clonal raider ant produces genetically identical offspring in discrete cohorts, making it possible to precisely control and replicate the size and composition of colonies in experiments, and custom tools for automated behavioral tracking are available in the host lab.

Tasks:

- Conduct experiments and data analysis independently
- Write and publish scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Present results at national and international conferences
- Option to supervise BSc and MSc students

Requirements:

- Scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in ecology, biology, or a related field

- Doctoral degree (PhD) in ecology, evolution, epidemiology, virology, or other relevant fields
- A published track-record of addressing scientific questions in an innovative and rigorous manner
- Expertise and experience in working with insects and/or viruses (including molecular work)
- A keen interest in host-pathogens interactions and/or epidemiology
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Team-oriented and strong organizational skills

We offer:

- A highly dynamic, collaborative, and interdisciplinary working environment
- State-of-the-art facilities and equipment, as well as world-class colleagues in insect neuroethology, symbiosis, and evolutionary biology
- A generous salary relative to the cost of living in Jena; benefits like health insurance, parental leave, and pension plans are standard
- Flexible working hours and work-life balance
- Voluntary participation in postdoc career support programme (courses, coaching, networking etc.) offered by iDiv and the Max Planck Society
- The working language at iDiv, the MLU group and the MPI-CE is English
- iDiv and the MPI-CE are highly international and various forms of support for employees (Welcome Centre, German classes, etc.) are available

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German higher education institution must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) to demonstrate equivalence.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to flexpool@idiv.de. For project-related questions, please contact Dr Yuko Ulrich (yulrich@ice.mpg.de).

Please submit your full application dossier only in English with registration number 4-4758/22-D by **9 June 2022.** Applications should be submitted via the iDiv application portal at https://apply.idiv.de.

All applications should include:

- Cover letter in English tailored to the research project
- CV, including full list of publications and names and contact details of at least two scientific references
- Digital copy of master and PhD certificate or equivalent

iDiv is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff from diverse genders and backgrounds.