Modern, interconnected, conscious of tradition: Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) is the oldest and largest university in the State of Saxony-Anhalt with a history dating back more than 500 years. Today more than 20,000 students are enrolled at the university. MLU’s core research areas are in the nanosciences and biosciences, the Enlightenment, as well as in social and cultural research. The university is also home to a range of small disciplines, some of which can be found nowhere else in Germany. The university has excellent national and international ties, and works closely together with leading research institutes, industry, and more than 250 universities around the world.

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position commencing on 1 January 2024 or at the earliest opportunity and limited to 31 December 2025.

Scientific Employee – Molecular Ecology, Plant Systematics and Evolution (m/f/d) Flexpool project “Biological species delimitation revisited using the high Andean tree genus Polylepis (Rosaceae) as a model (BioSpec)”

as full-time employment.

The salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L, if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The workplace will be in Halle in the research group of Prof. Isabell Hensen.

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.

This position is affiliated with the Plant Ecology Professorship of Prof. Isabell Hensen. The goal of our BioSpec research team is to understand the drivers and mechanisms of speciation in the South American rose genus Polylepis using ddRADseq and to test our hypothesis of “speciation with gene flow”, challenging biological species delimitation. For more information, please visit our lab website: https://www.botanik.uni-halle.de/pflanzenoekologie/isabell_hensen/research/?lang=en

Tasks:

• Conducting field work in Bolivia and Ecuador to collect Polylepis plant leaves for molecular work and material for herbarium specimens
• Conducting a morphological evaluation of the herbarium specimens collected in the field and additional specimens
• Analysing the genetic structure of Polylepis species, applying a state-of-the-art next generation sequencing (ddRADseq) approach in the molecular lab and corresponding bioinformatics data evaluation methods
• Writing and publishing scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
• Presenting results at national and international conferences

Requirements:
• Scientific University degree (Diploma/M.Sc.) in a project-related field (e.g., molecular plant ecology, phylogeography, plant systematics/biogeography, plant evolution), a doctoral degree is desirable upon start of the project
• At least three years of experience in research and in the publication of scientific results
• Expertise and experience in field work (preferably in the tropics) is advantageous as well as motivation to combine field and lab approaches
• Very good quantitative and statistical skills in R are essential
• Expertise in ddRADseq and command-based bioinformatic analyses is advantageous
• Team-oriented individuals with interest and ability in interdisciplinary research and organizational skills
• Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
• Spanish communication skills as well as knowledge of German language are advantageous

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 prove equivalence.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to flexpool@idiv.de. For project-related questions, please contact Prof Isabell Hensen (isabell.hensen@botanik.uni-halle.de).

Please submit your full application dossier only in English with registration number 4-6691/23-D until 18 August 2023. Applications should be submitted via our iDiv application portal at https://apply.idiv.de.

All applications should include:
• Cover letter in English tailored to the research project
• complete curriculum vitae
• a publication record and names of two senior scientists who could serve as possible references
• digital copy of Master’s and PhD (if applicable) certificate or equivalent

Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.
The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions and dependent upon final approval of funding.

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