

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 this emerging field. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change. It is located in the city of Leipzig and it's a central institution of the University Leipzig, jointly hosted by the Martin Luther-University Halle Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Furthermore, it gains support by the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association and the Free State of Saxony. More Information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

Molecular Interaction Ecology (MIE) is one of the experimental research groups at iDiv. The mission of MIE is to unravel the molecular and chemical mechanisms governing interactions between plants and their biotic and abiotic environment. These mechanisms are studied using an integrated approach in which metabolomics and transcriptomics analyses are combined with measures of plant and herbivore performance. The ultimate goal is to understand the role of plant-based mechanisms in the establishment of aboveground and belowground biodiversity in natural communities.

Friedrich Schiller University Jena as the employer offers the following position with workplace in Leipzig, starting on 1 April 2020:

Doctoral Researcher (f/m/d)
on the project “Molecular mechanisms and ecological consequences of chemodiversity
in *Solanum dulcamara*”

(limited to 3 years, 65 percent of a full-time employment)
Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

The FSU Jena seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

The project is part of the DFG Funded Research Unit “Ecology and Evolution of Intraspecific Chemodiversity of Plants” which comprises 10 collaborative research projects at different universities in Germany. The goal of this PhD project at iDiv is to gain a deeper mechanistic understanding of the ecological and evolutionary drivers of a heritable glycoalkaloid polymorphism in *Solanum dulcamara*. The research will combine in-depth metabolomic analyses of *S. dulcamara* and its isolated glycoalkaloids with insect herbivore assays. In addition, a common garden experiment will be set-up to assess how individual plant chemotype and overall chemical diversity in plant populations affects herbivore communities, pollinator visits and plant performance.

Job description:

- design, carry out and analyze biological and chemical experiments related to the research project
- present scientific outcomes at joint meetings of the research unit as well as at national and international meetings
- write a Ph.D. thesis and scientific papers in internationally peer-reviewed journals
- supervise BSc/MSc students at MIE
- share responsibilities for the research facilities and the scientific atmosphere at MIE and iDiv

Requirements:

- Master degree or equivalent in biology, plant sciences or (bio)chemistry
- experience with running experiments with plants from experimental design to statistical analyses
- experience with lab work and/or metabolomics analyses
- experience with processing scientific data and performing statistical analyses
- excellent knowledge of the English language in speaking and writing
- a clear drive to do scientific research in plant-insect interactions
- flexible and well organized
- responsible personality with excellent communication skills
- in possession of European Driver License B or exchangeable equivalent

We offer you a PhD position, affiliated with the University of Jena and supervised by Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam and Dr. Fredd Vergara. The PhD candidate will become a member of γDiv, the graduate school of iDiv.

Applications are accepted until **06.02.2020 with reference number 41/2020** and should include a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of two references (including e-mail address and telephone numbers) and copies of BA/MA/Diploma certificates. Please hand in your application via our application portal under <https://apply.idiv.de>. Hard copy applications can be sent to German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig; Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam; Deutscher Platz 5e; 04103 Leipzig.

Interviews with selected candidates are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 18 February 2020.

For inquiries on the application process or more information on this position please contact Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam at nicole.vandam@idiv.de or telephone number 0341/97 13365.

Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

Please consider our application information: http://www.uni-jena.de/stellenmarkt_hinweis.html.

Please also note the information on the collection of personal data on:

www.uni-jena.de/Universität/Stellenmarkt/Datenschutzhinweis