



Chemical Ecology Group, Institute of Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, University of Ulm

PhD Position within a DFG project on “Ecology and evolution of floral scents in perfume flowers”



We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with a strong interest in animal-plant interactions, pollination and Chemical Ecology. The successful candidate will be part of an international team led by Prof. Manfred Ayasse (Ulm University) and Prof. Paulo Milet Pinheiro (University of Pernambuco, Brazil).

Background: The aim of this project is to increase our knowledge on the specialized interactions of male orchid bees and perfume flowers and to understand the significance of floral scents in the ecology and evolution of this remarkable mutualism. For this, we will use modern state of the art techniques from various disciplines, such as chemical ecology, pollination biology, behavioural ecology, insect physiology and molecular phylogeny. This cooperative project will be performed in collaboration with leading scientists in four different countries. Field studies and electrophysiological analyses will be conducted in Brazil and Costa Rica. Chemical analyses will be performed in Germany (Ulm and Bochum) and Brazil (Recife) and phylogenetic analyses in Italy (Naples).

Requirements: The successful candidate should have a master or diploma in biology, ecology or related disciplines, skills in one or several of the following methods: chemical analyses methodology (GC, GC-MS), electroantennography (GC-EAD), performing of behavioral experiments in laboratory or in the field. We expect experience and motivation to perform field work, good statistical skills in R, good English skills (Spanish and mainly Portuguese skills are of advantage), high motivation to learn new methods and collaborate within a network of research groups. A driver's license for fieldwork is necessary. We expect the candidate to have good communication skills and the ability to work in a team.

The contract shall start earliest at 1st of April 2024, a later start date is negotiable. The position (salary TV-L 13, 65%) will be restricted to 3 years. The University of Ulm advocates gender equality. Women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply.

Send application until middle of February including a motivation letter with description of research experience and interests, CV, relevant certificates and names of two potential referees by email as a single pdf-file to Prof. Dr. Manfred Ayasse (manfred.ayasse@uni-ulm.de).

For further information please contact Manfred Ayasse by email or phone (+49 731-5022663).