The Collaborative Research Centre Transregio 212 “A Novel Synthesis of Individualisation across Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution: Niche Choice, Niche Conformance, Niche Construction (NC3)”, subproject A04 (Dr. Barbara Caspers), offers a part-time research position (PhD position in Behavioural Ecology) starting soon as possible (E13 TV-L, non-permanent position).

Your Tasks

The aim of the PhD project (project A04 of the collaborative research centre) is to conduct a field study on a fire salamander (Salamandra salamandra) population and to test for consequences of niche conformance in this species. Fire salamander deposit on average 40 larvae each year in specific larval habitats. Fire salamanders are completely terrestrial after metamorphosis. In a pilot study we have been able to show that the larval habitat has influences on the adult phenotype. This project aims to investigate the ability of individual larvae to conform to this given niche, by doing behavioural experiments and by analyzing and characterizing the impact of the larval habitat on the chemical phenotype as well as on the skin microbe community. Fieldwork will usually be done during April and June.

Full details of the CRC can be found at http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/crc212/A04.html

The main task will be the following:

- research tasks (90 %)
- performing behavioural experiments in the field
- analysing skin microbe communities
- statistical analyses of complex multivariate data sets
- collaboration with other research groups in the collaborative research centre
- writing scientific publications for international journals
- organizational tasks in the research group and collaborative research centre (10 %)

Your Profile

We expect
- university degree in biology or a similar relevant scientific discipline
- interest in behavioural ecology questions
- high ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- very good oral and written communication skills in English

Preferable qualifications
- experience in skin microbe analysis, 16sRNA analysis
- experience in field work
- experience with conducting behavioural experiments
- experiences in GC/MS or LC/MS
- statistical knowledge
- experience with statistical software
- papers in peer-reviewed international journals

Remuneration

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wage Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) sentence 1 of the WissZeitVG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end after 3 years. In accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. The position is advertised as a 65 % part-time job. In individual cases, this percentage may be reduced on request, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

Bielefeld University is particularly committed to equal opportunities and the career development of its employees. It offers attractive internal and external training and further training programmes. Employees have the opportunity to use a variety of health, counseling, and prevention programmes. Bielefeld University places great importance on a work-family balance for all its employees.

Application Procedure

To apply, please provide:
(i) a letter of motivation including a statement of your research interests and skills and experience relevant to the position,
(ii) a CV including publication list,
(iii) names and contact details of two referees willing to write confidential letters of recommendation. All materials should be sent as a single PDF file to barbara.caspers@uni-bielefeld.de by the 1st of February 2018. Please mark your application with the identification code wiss17373. Please do not use application portfolios and send only photocopies of original documents because all application materials will be destroyed at the end of the selection procedure. Further information on Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de.

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements in the provision of equal opportunity and has been recognized as a family friendly university. The University welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard to academic and technical posts as well as positions in Information Technology and Craft. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state equal opportunity statutes. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.