

The Faculty of Biological Sciences, Pharmacy & Psychology /Department of Special Botany and Functional Biodiversity Research offers the position of a:

## Senior scientist in functional biodiversity research (for a period of 3 years with the possibility of extension)

Salary: pay scale (Entgeltgruppe) 13 TV-L

**We seek** a candidate with the capability to develop and coordinate an independent research program in a field of plant ecology within the framework of the department's focus on functional biodiversity research. The scientific program should ideally bridge spatial scales from plot-level observations and experiments to macro-ecological patterns and processes. It shall take advantage of existing research platforms such as large-scale forest and grassland diversity experiments, the Leipzig canopy crane facility, databases of plant functional traits and continental scale forest inventory and vegetation data. The candidate is expected to acquire external funding, take over organizational duties in the department and support the teaching in vegetation ecology and biostatistics.

**We expect** a PhD, a background in ecology, botany, forestry, or environmental sciences, a deep interest in fundamental ecological questions, strong quantitative skills and proficiency in advanced statistical methods, field experience, teaching experience and proven records of international publications and grant acquisition. Modeling skills and knowledge of spectrometric methods, image analysis, remote sensing and GIS are a plus. A good floristic knowledge is desirable. The candidates should be excellent team players and fluent in English (our group language). Candidates from abroad are expected to learn German.

**We offer** an international environment created by a very active and diverse group covering expertise in experimental and observational approaches and a wide range of statistical and eco-informatics methods; Lab facilities include NIRS, IRMS, Elemental and Lignin Analysis, Spectrometry, Laser Scanning, Dendrochronology and a fully equipped plant trait lab. Other facilities run by the group include the Botanical Garden of the University and the Leipzig Canopy Crane. Our group is involved in various research units in the field of functional biodiversity research (e.g. BEF China, Jena Experiment, FunDivEUROPE) and leads the German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig funded by DFG (<http://www.idiv-biodiversity.de/>) making Leipzig a global hotspot for biodiversity research.

For more information on the work in our department, consult <https://biologie.biphaps.uni-leipzig.de/de/ag/spezbot/>. For best consideration, please send your application, a two-page statement of your research agenda, curriculum vitae, copies of your certificates and contact details of three academic referees before **Apr 15 2015** to:

**University Leipzig**  
**AG Spezielle Botanik und funktionelle Biodiversität**  
**Prof. Dr. Christian Wirth**  
**Johannisallee 21-23, 04103 Leipzig, Germany**  
Or via email as a single pdf-file to [cwirth@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:cwirth@uni-leipzig.de)

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Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.