

Subject: Ph.D. opportunity in wildflower strips and arthropod communities in Germany

The Department of Landscape Ecology at Kiel University (<https://www.landscape-ecology.uni-kiel.de/de/forschung>) is seeking an outstanding student to study the effects of wildflower strips on arthropod communities in Northern Germany. The research will consist of three major foci: Evaluation of (1) how the establishment of wild flower strips in agricultural landscapes affect abundance and species composition of arthropod communities (2) how these arthropod communities will help to sustain populations of an endangered partridge species (*Perdix perdix*) (3) how wildflower strips affect ecosystem services and disservices in the adjacent agricultural fields. All research questions will be investigated in the light of configuration and composition of the landscape surrounding the wildflower strips. Specific topics include, but will not be limited to: diversity measurements, trophic interactions (i.e., plant-animal, and animal-animal interactions), ecosystem services, and landscape analyses.

The position will consist of establishing research sites in Northern Germany, conducting arthropod sampling and identification, measuring ecosystem services, digitizing and analyzing landscapes, supervising undergraduate students, analyzing data and writing papers.

As such, we are looking for candidates with very good field skills, strong quantitative skills and a demonstrated ability to write and ideally publish in English. Because fieldwork takes place in Germany, a good knowledge of the German language is essential.

Minimum Qualifications Required:

- Candidates must have obtained their MSc in ecology, biology, environmental science, agricultural science or a related field by the appointment start date
- Fluency in German is preferred
- Statistical and programming skills in R are essential
- Familiarity with GIS, especially landscape analyses
- Demonstrated writing skills in English
- Very good identification skills for at least one relevant arthropod group
- Candidates must demonstrate the ability to work well independently and part of a team

Additional Qualifications

- Familiarity with plant, and/or bird identification and taxonomy
- Publication in peer-reviewed journal

The appointment is for 3 years, to begin as soon as possible. Compensation according to public tariff (50% E 13 TV-L).

Kiel University is an equal opportunity employer and aims to increase the number of women in research and teaching. Applications by women are particularly welcome, and, in cases of equal aptitude, ability and professional performance, preference in hiring will be given to women.

The University supports the employment of disabled persons. Persons with disabilities will, with appropriate qualifications and aptitudes, be employed preferentially.

Applications by students with migration background are particularly welcomed.

To Apply: Applications should be addressed to Prof. Tim Diekötter and Dr. John Herrmann and send by email to jherrmann@ecology.uni-kiel.de with subject "PhD position #p001".

Applications should include a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, a list of publications (if available), copies of certificates, and the names and addresses of two individuals able to evaluate the applicant's qualifications for the position. All documents (except certificates) should be written in English and merged into a single pdf file. Please refrain from submitting application photos.

The application deadline is May 15th, 2016.

Starting date is as soon as possible.

Review of applications will begin immediately, and continue until the position is filled. Inquiries may be addressed to Dr. John Herrmann: jherrmann@ecology.uni-kiel.de

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