



Reference file number  
**106/2013**

Leipzig, May 27, 2013

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** is one of the seven National Research Centres funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is located in the city of Leipzig and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) and the University of Leipzig (UL) as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). It is supported by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association, the Klaus Tschira Foundation and the Free State of Saxony. 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.

Embedded in the active research environment of iDiv, the **Young BioDiversity Research Training Group (yDiv)** will be established. Its goal is to educate a new generation of scientists in transdisciplinary biodiversity research, who will have gained expertise both in experimental as well as theoretical fields of research.

The University of Leipzig offers the following position:

### **Doctoral fellowship**

(initially limited to 3 years, 65 percent of a full-time employment)

Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

### **on "The importance of antagonistic interactions for plant species coexistence and ecosystem functioning"**

#### **Topic / job description:**

- conduct ecological field experiments in grassland ecosystems (manipulate plant species abundance, insect herbivory, and pathogen attack) to study mechanisms of plant species coexistence
- carry out greenhouse experiments, e. g. to investigate competition-defense tradeoffs and negative feedbacks with pathogens
- apply advanced molecular techniques to identify fungal taxa

#### **Requirements / expected profile:**

- an excellent Master's or Diploma degree in a relevant field of research
- experience in experimental ecology, including the design and statistical analysis of ecological experiments
- strong interest in conceptual issues in ecology
- good use of spoken and written English and ambition to publish in international journals
- experience in sequencing techniques is advantageous

We offer you a PhD position, affiliated with the University of Leipzig and supervised by Dr. Harald Auge (<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=1153>), Department of Community Ecology, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ Halle, in collaboration with Prof. Isabell Hensen (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Dr. Martin Schädler (Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ Halle), and Prof. Holger B. Deising (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg).

**Applications** are accepted until **July 1, 2013**.

All applications should include:

- filled application form (download under <http://www.idiv-biodiversity.de/ydiv/positionsjobs>)
- curriculum vitae
- cover letter describing research interests & relevant experience
- one letter of recommendation
- MA/BA/Diploma certificates

Applications should be directed to the yDiv coordinator Dr. Julia Zimmermann ([ydiv@idiv-biodiversity.de](mailto:ydiv@idiv-biodiversity.de)) in a **single PDF file with reference file number (106/2013) in the subject line**.

We prefer applications in electronic form (hard copy applications can be sent to Dr. J. Zimmermann; German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research - iDiv; Deutscher Platz 5e; 04103 Leipzig)

For queries on the application process please contact [ydiv@idiv-biodiversity.de](mailto:ydiv@idiv-biodiversity.de)

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

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