

We invite applications for a

PhD position in Insect Community Ecology/Chemical Ecology

E13 TV-L, 65 %

Your profile

- Full university degree (Diploma/M.Sc.) in biology, ecology, entomology or a related discipline.
- Interest in insect community ecology and chemical ecology.
- Fluent in English, in reading and writing.
- Good communication skills and ability to work in a team.
- Ability to conduct field work
- Knowledge of insect taxonomy and identification skills desirable
- Experience with plant-insect interactions and ecological experiments desirable

Tasks

The Ph.D.-position is be one of nine Ph.D.-positions in the newly funded DFG research unit “Ecology and Evolution of Intraspecific Chemodiversity”, where seven universities and research institutions work together to elucidate the origins and ecological consequences of plant within-species chemical diversity¹. The candidate will work on Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*, Rainfarn), its herbivores, in particular aphids, and the herbivore natural enemies. *T. vulgare* is highly diverse in leaf terpenoid content and variation in chemodiversity between individual plants has already been shown to affect the insect community on the plant. The Ph.D.-candidate will set up a field experiment where plant communities differ in chemical diversity, and will study the consequences of this chemodiversity for the assembly of insect communities in the field. The work involves field work, laboratory work as well as characterizing the chemical diversity of plants, together with other Ph.D.-students of the research group.

Our offer

- Stimulating working environment and an interdisciplinary research team.
- An international research group where English is the main language
- A salary in accordance to TV-L E13 (65 %) for 36 months.
- TUM is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women are therefore particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities are treated with preference given comparable qualification.

Contact

Please send your application, including a cover letter, a detailed CV and contact information of two referees to Wolfgang Weisser, either as a single pdf file via email (toek@tum), or per post (Wolfgang Weisser, Lehrstuhl für Terrestrische Ökologie, Hans-Carl-von-Carlowitz-Platz 2, D-85354 Freising). Deadline for applications is 20.9.2020. Müller et al. 2020 describes the Chemodiversity research group see <https://riojournal.com/article/49810>. For more information about our research and the research group see toek.wzw.tum.de. Papers on the tansy system include Clancy et al. 2016 (doi.org/10.1038/srep38087), Clancy et al. 2018 Plant Cell Environ (doi.org/10.1111/pce.13407) and Senft et al. 2019 Funct Ecol (doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.13227). For further inquiries, please contact Prof. Wolfgang W. Weisser (wolfgang.weisser@tum.de).

¹ <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/verbuende/chemodiversity/>