



We are looking for a

## Research assistant (PhD candidate)

for the sub-project 2 “**Predator-prey networks, defensive alkaloids**” within the newly established DFG-funded Research Unit FOR 5207: *Reassembly of species interaction networks – Resistance, resilience and functional recovery of a rainforest ecosystem*.

We offer a 4-year position, starting at 1 November 2021. The position comprises salary and benefits commensurate with a public service position at the Technical University Darmstadt, Germany (TV-TU Darmstadt E13, 65%). The position provides the possibility to conduct a PhD. Ideally, the candidate has experience with field work in remote areas and challenging conditions (extensive tracking and camping in a hilly rainforest in the rainy season), as well as profound experience in laboratory work. Candidates interested in this position should have a M.Sc. in Biology/Ecology or related areas. Experience in chemical ecology and/or determination of small soil arthropods (ideally oribatid mites) would be a special benefit. We expect the candidate to have good communication skills and the ability to work in an international team, with research groups from several German and Ecuadorian institutions and a conservation organization. Fluency in English is a prerequisite, and Spanish would be particularly useful.

The sub-project includes two strongly collaborating PhD-positions (one at the Berlin Museum für Naturkunde – Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science, one at the TU Darmstadt) focusing on complementary aspects of a predator-prey study system with anurans (with a special focus on poison frogs) and their prey (several arthropods, with a special focus on alkaloid-producing oribatid mites and ants). The position focusing on alkaloids will be based at the **Technical University Darmstadt**, Animal Evolutionary Ecology lab. The successful candidate is expected to repeatedly travel and work for prolonged periods at the research unit’s field station in **Ecuador**.

Find more information about the Heethoff lab at [heethoff.de](http://heethoff.de), and about the Research Unit at [reassembly.de](http://reassembly.de). For further information please contact Michael Heethoff ([heethoff@bio.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:heethoff@bio.tu-darmstadt.de)).

Please send your application with all relevant documents in a single PDF-file to: [heethoff@bio.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:heethoff@bio.tu-darmstadt.de). Application deadline is 25.06.2021.

The Technical University Darmstadt intends to increase the number of female employees and encourages **female candidates** to apply. In case of equal qualifications applicants with a degree of disability of at least 50 or equal will be given preference.

By submitting your application, you agree that your data may be stored and processed for the purpose of filling the vacancy.