

Research Assistant (PhD Student, m/f/d)

Seed dispersal by frugivorous bats

We are seeking a PhD - candidate with a strong background in tropical ecology and a keen interest in studying interaction networks between plants and animal seed dispersers. The position is part of the DFG Research Unit 5207 „Reassembly of species interaction networks” (reassembly.de).

You will investigate the temporal dynamics of seed-dispersal networks along a gradient of tropical forest recovery. For this, you will collect interaction data between plants and frugivorous bats in the Chocó rainforests in Ecuador and record functional traits of plants and animals (Subproject website: <https://reassembly.de/research/sp4-seed-dispersal/>)

You will join a highly international and dynamic working environment and form part of a large collaborative research team. We expect the candidate to collaborate with members of the whole project team. The position involves extended stays and independent field work in the study area. It also comprises strong quantitative components, e.g., analyses of ecological networks and trait-based analyses.

Position requirements

- Master degree in Ecology or a related field
- Strong quantitative skills and programming skills in R
- Experience with field work in remote and/or tropical areas
- Ability to work under physically demanding conditions
- Strong interest in the analyses of ecological networks and functional traits
- Prior taxonomic knowledge of Neotropical plants and bats is beneficial
- Excellent English and Spanish communication skills (written & oral).

The 4-year position will be preferentially filled with a suitable candidate from Ecuador. For the first three years the position will be based at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador in Ecuador with a salary corresponding to the local standard. The fourth year will be spent at the University of Ulm, Germany and will be payed according to the German federal standard (TV-L E13, 65%). The contract should start on November 1st 2021. The project supports equal opportunity of men and women and therefore strongly invites women to apply. Equally qualified handicapped applicants will be given preference.

You would like to apply? Please include in your application a cover letter describing your motivation to apply, a detailed CV, full credentials/certificates (including a full transcript of records of your MSc degree) and contact details of two academic references, as well as a copy of your most important publication and/or a summary of your Master thesis. For inquiries contact Santiago Burneo (sburneo@puce.edu.ec) or Marco Tschapka (marco.tschapka@uni-ulm.de). Please send your application as a single pdf-file by email to marco.tschapka@uni-ulm.de until August 30th, 2021.