

## PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT OLDENBURG)

Bewerbungsfrist: 31.10.2017

### PhD position in ecology

#### Title: Epiphytes and wind in a changing world

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Zotz, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany

Co-supervisor: Dr. Helena Einzmann, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany

Key words: biodiversity; tropics; epiphytes; mechanical effect of wind; global climate change; land-use change

#### Background:

Epiphytes are a key-element of tropical diversity. Their natural habitat, tropical forests, is increasingly fragmented by on-going human activity. One consequence is increased exposure to wind. Such exposed growth also occurs in the natural setting. Thus, resistance to the mechanical disturbance by wind is a prerequisite of epiphytic growth. One of the predicted results of global climate change is the occurrence of stronger storms. With this project we want to answer several questions, e.g. how much wind force epiphytes can resist before they lose the connection to their substrate, and whether the substrate itself is the mechanical bottleneck in the system. The PhD position is located in Oldenburg (northern Germany), but will include extensive stays in the tropics, mainly but not exclusively in Panama. The position is limited to 3 years in the DFG-funded project “Epiphytes and wind in a changing world” that will be conducted by the research group Functional Plant Ecology (Prof. Dr. Zotz) in close collaboration with the TWiSt-lab (Prof. Dr. Peinke). The salary corresponds to regulations of the German Research Foundation (65% of salary grade TV-L E13).

#### Personal and professional requirements:

We look for an independent and open-minded candidate who is creative and highly interested in biological and biomechanical questions.

#### You will:

- plan and conduct experiments in the field and in the wind tunnel
- Collect field data in the tropics
- Conduct the statistical analyses of your data independently

#### Requirements:

- A MSc (or equivalent) in biology or a related discipline
- An analytical and critical mind-set
- The ability to independently work on scientific problems
- The willingness and physical fitness to do field work for several months at a time in the tropics
- Hands-on experience with statistical analyses (preferentially with R)
- Fluency in English is essential
- Some knowledge of German and Spanish is advantageous
- Knowledge of accessing the canopy with ropes would be advantageous
- Capacity for teamwork and the ability to communicate

#### Applications must include:

- Cover letter with clear statements of your motivation
- Detailed CV
- Relevant certificates
- Contact details of two referees (at least one of whom should be academic)

This should be sent as a single .pdf file to the email addresses below. The deadline for the acceptance of applications is Tuesday **31st October 2017**. Please send applications to: Prof. Gerhard Zotz ([gerhard.zotz@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:gerhard.zotz@uni-oldenburg.de)) and Dr. Helena Einzmann ([helena.einzmann@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:helena.einzmann@uni-oldenburg.de)) or to: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Zotz, Dr. Helena Einzmann, Funktionelle Ökologie der Pflanzen, Institut für Biologie und Umweltwissenschaften, Universität Oldenburg, Postfach 2503, 26111 Oldenburg, Germany. For further information, see: <http://www.fun-eco.uni-oldenburg.de/en/> or contact one of the email addresses mentioned above. The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. In order to increase the percentage of female staff members, female candidates with equal qualification will be given preference. Applicants with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equal qualification.