



PhD position at the Freie Universität Berlin

Stress ecology - understanding the role of priming in fungi for community dynamics by trait-based modelling

Variable environmental conditions can cause stress to organisms. Depend on their plasticity or other types of stress resistance, this can shift competition between individuals or species, and thus lead to a shift in the species community. The goal of our project is to examine the phenomenon of priming, in our case thermoprimering, at the level of the microbial assemblage. For this an integrated experimental and modelling approach will be carried out using saprobic soil fungi as model organisms.

We are looking for a doctoral student to work on a project that is part of the Collaborative Research Center “Priming and Memory of Organismic Responses to Stress” (www.sfb973.de/). Our project is entitled “Priming in Fungi: towards understanding of priming at the level of the community”.

For this position we are looking for a candidate with strong interest in theoretical ecology who will carry out the modelling work of this coupled empirical-modeling project. The candidate will develop simulation models describing the interactions between organisms under temperature stress. These interactions will range from simple two-species-interactions to community dynamics.

Your profile

- MSc or equivalent in biology, ecology, system science or a related field
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English (good communication skills in German appreciated but not essential)
- Experience in modelling and programming (preferably in C++, R or NetLogo)
- very good knowledge in statistics and data analysis (preferably in R)
- Strong interest in theoretical ecology
- strong interest in interacting with empirical working PhD

The position is funded for approx. 4 years (until **30.06.2020**) starting as soon as possible. Payment is according to the German public tariff (65% TV-L E13).

Applications (quoting the reference: **2016_Tietjen_SFB973**) should be submitted until 08th of August 2016 via email, and preferably as single pdf-file to Prof. Dr. Britta Tietjen, Biodiversity and Ecological Modelling, Freie Universität Berlin: britta.tietjen@fu-berlin.de. Applications should include a **letter of motivation, a CV, transcripts or degree certificates including grades and proofs of special qualifications**. The applicant should give **contact details of two potential referees**. The Freie Universität Berlin is an equal opportunity employer and specifically encourages female candidates to apply. Disabled persons will be preferred in case of equal qualification.