

We are offering a **PhD position** at Freie Universität Berlin

in collaboration with Technische Universität München



In the project “**MetacommuniTree – Land-use effects on patterns and processes in decomposer metacommunities in tree holes**” within the DFG Priority Programme “The Biodiversity Exploratories” (<http://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de/1/home/>) we are offering a PhD position (fully funded for 3 years, 65%, pending final decision by the DFG).

The project will study a natural metacommunity system: aquatic protozoa and arthropod communities in water-filled tree holes. Specifically, we will examine effects of forest management on the structure and functions of these tree-hole metacommunities.

Field work will be conducted in the forest plots at the three sites of The Biodiversity Exploratories in Germany.

The PhD student will map tree holes, survey their aquatic communities and carry out field experiments. The work also has a strong statistical component. The student will be based at FU Berlin, with several research stays at TU München.

Applicants should have a university degree (M.Sc. or equivalent) in Biology, Ecology or a related field and a strong academic record. Furthermore, sound experience in statistical data analysis, preferably in R, and good English skills will be necessary. Knowledge of German, experience in experimental design, field work, taxonomy of aquatic arthropods and/or protozoa and tree climbing skills would be helpful.

The ideal starting date is March 1, 2014. To apply please email a motivation letter, CV and contact details of two references until Jan 31 to jana.petermann@fu-berlin.de. Further information is available via email from Prof. Jana Petermann or Prof. Wolfgang Weisser (wolfgang.weisser@tum.de).