



**One PhD position (m/f/d) in forest biodiversity- ecosystem functioning research
- a beta-diversity experiment (BETA-FOR)
Subproject “After life – decomposition”**

In the DFG-funded research unit BETA-FOR we investigate the effects of enhancing the structural diversity of central European forests by silvicultural interventions to improve biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Manipulating the structure of forests at the landscape level, BETA-FOR constitutes one of the largest biodiversity experiments hitherto conducted. The study sites are located mainly in the University Forest of Würzburg and the Bavarian Forest Nationalpark, with additional sites in Lübeck, Hunsrück-Hochwald Nationalpark and the Saarland.

Within this research unit, **subproject 5 “After life – decomposition”** (led by Prof. Dr. Michael Scherer-Lorenzen, University of Freiburg, and PD Dr. Marcell Peters, University of Würzburg) addresses decomposer communities and decomposition processes. In this subproject we will quantify the diversity and composition of decomposer communities and rates of decomposition of several types of dead organic matter from hard wood to mammal dung. Tracer experiments will be used to quantify nutrient fluxes in ecosystems. We aim at a mechanistic understanding of the effects of enhancing the structural complexity in forests on the decomposition system – from the local forest to the landscape level. In the subproject 5 “After life – decomposition” the following PhD position is available:

PhD position:

We are looking for candidates with a deep interest for insect ecology, plant and soil ecology, and ecosystem functioning research.

We offer:

- Cutting-edge research projects in a real-world forest diversity experiment
- Outstanding, interdisciplinary and integrative research environment, offering many networking opportunities
- Individual supervision by internationally recognized scientists in BEF and forest biodiversity research
- Excellent working conditions, and an inspiring atmosphere at the Universities of Freiburg and Würzburg
- A four-year TV-L E13 65 % contract

Requirements/expected profile:

- Excellent M.Sc. degree in a project-related field (e.g. biology, ecology, forest science, environmental sciences)
- Very good ecological knowledge and great interest with regard to forest biodiversity/functioning research
- Good quantitative and statistical skills in R
- Excellent communication skills in English - writing and speaking
- Motivated to be a proactive team player in an international, interdisciplinary research consortium
- Field work experience in forests would be advantageous
- Driving license is a must; partly also a private car, if the University car is not available. (Reimbursements for private KM costs will be paid.)

Please submit your application **as one single pdf-file** including:

- Cover letter in English describing your motivation for the subproject, research interests and relevant experience
- Curriculum vitae in tabular form
- Digital copy of the master`s certificate and transcript of records or equivalent
- Names and contact details of at least two scientific references
- Working email address

Please note that there is no application deadline, and the positions will be filled when an appropriate candidate is selected!

Our universities are equal opportunities employer and place emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified female applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Our universities intend to raise the number of disabled persons in their employment. In the case of equally qualified applicants, disabled persons will be preferentially considered.

Please submit your application to sekretariat.geobotanik@biologie.uni-freiburg.de. For questions about the sub-project, please contact Michael Scherer-Lorenzen (michael.scherer@biologie.uni-freiburg.de) or Marcell Peters (marcell.peters@uni-wuerzburg.de).