

## PhD position in Behavioural Ecology of ants

**Application deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

We invite applications for a 3-year PhD position (65% TV-L E13) on the role of chemical footprints for interspecific interactions in ants. While walking, ants leave chemical cues on the ground. Other individuals can detect these footprints and respond to them – by avoiding them, approaching them or altering their aggression. Such responses can influence colony fitness, but also competition between colonies or species. However, the behavioural, chemical and ecological factors behind these responses, as well as their consequences for intercolonial and interspecific competition are still largely unknown. The PhD candidate will investigate these questions using behavioural experiments, chemical analyses, and agent-based models. The project links behaviour, chemical ecology and community ecology in empirical and simulation studies.

We are looking for a highly motivated candidate with an MSc degree (or equivalent) in Biology or a related field. The successful applicant should have a strong background in ecology, animal behaviour and/or evolutionary biology. Experience with social insects, statistics and/or programming are advantageous but not required. The working language of the laboratory is English. The University of Mainz aims to increase the number of women in science, and applications by women are strongly encouraged. Similarly, qualified candidates with disabilities will be preferred.

The successful applicant will join an international and dynamic scientific environment (see [http://www.bio.uni-mainz.de/zoo/evobio/index\\_ENG.php](http://www.bio.uni-mainz.de/zoo/evobio/index_ENG.php) for more information on our research). Mainz is a beautiful city located at the Rhine River with many students and a rich social and cultural life.

If interested, please send an application as a single pdf file containing your CV, a 1-page motivation letter, your previous research activities, BSc and MSc grades, publications (if applicable), and the names and email addresses of two potential referees. Applications should be sent to Dr. Florian Menzel ([menzelf@uni-mainz.de](mailto:menzelf@uni-mainz.de)) until December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The ideal starting date for the position is March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, but is negotiable. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

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