

Postdoc position on comparative genomics of the titan arum at the Department of Biosciences at the University of Salzburg

The research group for Molecular Phylogenetics and Ecology of Plants at the Department of Biosciences at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (Austria) seeks an enthusiastic postdoctoral researcher to work within the 1,000 Ideas Project “Immortal titans: Does a germline exist in the titan arum?” funded by the FWF (Austrian Science Foundation).

About the project

In this project, we aim to investigate the existence and timing of an early segregating germline in a large long-lived plant species, the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*), which grows the world's largest inflorescence. Making use of the fact that this species can be propagated sexually and asexually and exhibits an incredibly fast period of growth during flowering, we aim to assess the mutation rate in cell lineages with vegetative and reproductive functions by comparative genomics of different individuals and tissues. We will generate the first genome assembly of this fascinating plant species as well as several transcriptome datasets and test whether an early segregating germline exists in this species.

Your profile

The successful candidate will work collaboratively within the project team and directly with the team leaders Anja Hörger and Stephanie Socher. Ideally, the candidate will have i) completed a PhD in evolutionary genomics or bioinformatics, ii) experience in genome assembly or transcriptome analysis of polyploid species, iii) good oral and writing skills in English, and iv) good communication and teamwork skills. Language skills in German are not required, but will be useful for daily life.

Your tasks

- *de novo* assembly of long read genome sequence data
- comparative genomics with several re-sequenced genomes
- transcriptome analyses
- participation in dissemination of results

Deadline for application: July 31, 2021

Intended start date: October 2021

Weekly working time and duration of the position: 40 hours per week for 15 months with possibility of extension

The postdoc position is offered in accordance with the Collective Agreement for University Employees, group B1. The monthly remuneration is €3,945.90 gross (14 times per year). The exact salary will be confirmed upon appointment.

Application: Please send your application including motivation letter, CV, publication list and contact details of two academic references as a single pdf-file to anja.hoerger@sbg.ac.at not later than July 31st 2021 (please state the reference number in your application: 2021_PR_Titan).

Questions and informal enquiries can be directed to anja.hoerger@sbg.ac.at and additional information on the project can be found at <https://uni-salzburg.elsevierpure.com/de/projects/immortal-titans-does-a-germline-exist-in-the-titan-arum>.