



The Multitrophic Biodiversity group at the Department of Environment and Biodiversity, University of Salzburg offers

## **Research position (f/m/d) in the DFG RU FOR 5281 *MultiTroph***

Research Field: **Entomology, Ecology, Ecosystem Functioning**

Duration: **4 years**

Payment according to **FWF salary rates** (75%, 30 hours, ca. 2,300 € before tax)

Starting date: 01.10.2022 or later

Application submission deadline: 06.09.2022.

The **Multitrophic Biodiversity group** (Prof. Jana Petermann, [www.plus.ac.at/petermann](http://www.plus.ac.at/petermann)) is seeking a highly motivated candidate to study arthropod diversity, trophic interactions and related ecosystem functions in the new **Research Unit *MultiTroph* “Multi-trophic interactions in a forest biodiversity experiment in China”** funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG). The Research Unit *MultiTroph* is part of the Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning China (BEF-China) research platform. The platform was established in 2008 by Chinese, German and Swiss researchers (<https://bef-china.com>) and comprises the worldwide largest tree diversity experiment.

The position with the aim to gain a doctoral degree in ecology is integrated in Subproject 3 (PhD 3) **“Plant-herbivore-predator food webs, stoichiometry and functions”** led by Prof. Jana Petermann (University of Salzburg) and Prof. Andreas Schuldt (University of Göttingen).

The PhD candidate will study plant-herbivore-predator arthropod food webs and will extend previous work in BEF-China by including multiple trophic levels and by linking these multitrophic communities and their interactions with biomass distributions and stoichiometry to enable an analysis of trophic pyramids and energy-based networks. The student will use classic collection techniques in the field, morphological species identification (assisted by barcoding approaches) and will study nutrient stoichiometry from trees to herbivorous insects and predatory arthropods.

We are looking for a candidate with excellent skills in field entomology, capacity to work under challenging climate conditions, statistical analyses (preferably using R) and scientific writing. Applicants must hold an excellent MSc in ecology, biology or related disciplines. The PhD student will be enrolled at the University of Salzburg but the position requires multiple extended field stays in south-east China (for several months). Ideally, you have experience with one or several of the methods used in the research (e.g. insect sampling, stoichiometry, network analyses). Working language is English but basic knowledge of German or Chinese is advantageous. You should be able to work independently and embedded in the *MultiTroph* team of researchers.

### ***Contact and application procedure:***

Applications should include a letter of motivation, a complete CV including a list of publications (if any), a piece of your scientific writing (e.g. introduction of your MSc thesis), copies of relevant certificates and contact details of two references. Applications should be submitted by 06.09.2022 as a single pdf file (max. 10 MB) to [jana.petermann@sbg.ac.at](mailto:jana.petermann@sbg.ac.at) using the subject “MultiTroph\_SP3\_PhDposition”.