

**PhD position available in Plant Evolutionary Developmental Genetics**

The plant evo-devo group has a PhD position available in the field of plant evolutionary developmental genetics at the JLU Gießen, Germany (where to groups will be located at early next year) as of now in the project “Adaptomics of neofunctionalization: analysis of *GORDITA*-like genes in Brassicaceae” which is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the DFG priority program “Evolutionary plant solutions to ecological challenges: Molecular mechanisms underlying adaptive traits in the Brassicaceae s.l. (Adaptomics)” (DFG SPP 1529).

Main research area:

The candidate will actively participate in a scientific project that analyses the evolution of a class of transcription factors from plants. Using the *GORDITA*-like genes from the Brassicaceae we are interested in the question on how transcription factor encoding genes acquire new functions after gene duplication. We are especially interested in the changes of regulatory sequences versus protein coding regions that can be attributed to the new functions and how new genes contributed to fitness and adaptation of the Brassicaceae. Methods that will be applied in the project are protein interaction analysis (Yeast Two-Hybrid and Bifluorescence Complementation), promoter analyses, knock-down vector construction, plant transformation, and phenotyping of transgenics.

Qualification of the applicants:

The successful candidate holds a Diploma of M.Sc. in Biology and has specialized in Genetics, Molecular Biology, Plant Genetics, or Molecular Evolution and has a strong interest in the evolution of genes and plants. Hands-on experience in molecular biology is essential, experience in vector cloning, phenotyping, or protein interaction analysis is highly desirable. Excellent English written and oral communication skills are required, as is the ability to work both independently and in a team. The working language in the laboratory is English.

General requirements:

The successful applicant needs a strong interest in basic research in the areas of molecular evolution and evolutionary developmental genetics of plants. Experience in writing publications and reports in English is advantageous and collaboration in this respect is expected. The project is part of a DFG priority program and in cooperation with Prof. Günter Theißen (University of Jena) and Prof. Klaus Mummenhoff (University of Osnabrück) and will additionally be supported by student helpers and a technician. Good communication skills and the ability to work in a team are therefore important requirements.

The position is funded for three years and is paid according to TVL13 (65%). Applications of women are especially encouraged and disabled persons will be favored when equally qualified.

Please send applications including transcripts, curriculum vitae, and a letter describing your motivation to pursue this PhD project, and contact information for two referees as single pdf files to tisticka@uni-bremen.de. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Questions regarding the project or position should be directed to annette.becker@uni-bremen.de.

References: Erdmann et al., 2010, Plant Journal; Becker et al., 2003 Mol Gen Gen

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