



PhD studentship

A DFG-funded PhD studentship is available in the group of Michael Lenhard at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam, Germany, starting in January 2019.

The project aims to understand the evolution of genetic redundancy at the molecular level, using the species pair of *Capsella rubella* (Red Shepherd's Purse) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a model. A pair of duplicated transcriptional regulators has recently been found to display a different extent of functional redundancy between these species. In particular, while the genes are fully redundant in *A. thaliana*, they are only partly so in *C. rubella*. Thus, this project will define the mutations that have occurred in the *C. rubella* lineage to cause the partial loss of redundancy. Their evolutionary history will be studied to test hypotheses about the evolution of redundancy. Lastly, the functional significance of differential redundancy for the robustness of phenotypic traits will be investigated. Towards these goals the project will use a wide range of techniques in plant molecular biology, genetics and bioinformatics. It will thus provide training in state-of-the-art methods in evolutionary genetics. For more information on our work, please visit <https://lenhardlab.wordpress.com/>

The successful candidate holds a Masters degree in Biology with a focus on Genetics, Molecular or Developmental Biology and should have relevant previous research experience. The working language of the laboratory is English.

The position is offered according to German payscale TV-L E13 (65%) for three years.

Please send applications including Curriculum Vitae, a letter describing your motivation to pursue this PhD project and contact information for two referees to Michael Lenhard (michael.lenhard@uni-potsdam.de).