



Technische Universität Braunschweig | Institut für Pharmazeutische Biologie
Mendelssohnstraße 1 | 38106 Braunschweig | Deutschland

For the DFG-funded German-French cooperation on "Host plant adaptation in Plutellid moths (HOPPediMOTH)", the Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology at Technische Universität Braunschweig seeks a

PhD student (m/f/d) in the area Chemical Ecology/ Ecological Biochemistry

to be hired on a fixed-term position for three years starting on February 1st, 2021 (salary according to German public service TV-L EG13, 65 %).

Although insect herbivores and their host plants dominate much of terrestrial biodiversity, the factors that determine host plant specificity and host range of insect herbivores are incompletely understood. The DFG/ANR-funded German-French project "Host plant adaptation in Plutellid moths (HOPPediMOTH)" addresses the dynamics of change in function of sulfatases, which represent major biochemical adaptations of Plutellid insects to the glucosinolate-myrosinase system, a chemical defense of their host plants, over evolutionary times. The PhD student will participate in field excursions for plant and insect collection, conduct induction experiments under laboratory conditions, analyse metabolite profiles in plant material and express and characterize recent and ancestral sulfatases from Plutellidae.

We are looking for an energetic and highly motivated personality with MSc/Diploma degree or completed National Board Exam in biochemistry, biology, pharmacy, chemistry or similar who enjoys studying plant-insect interactions and biochemical work. We expect high commitment and a sound theoretical background in biochemistry and/or chemical ecology. Practical experience in scientific field work, instrumental analytics, and/or enzyme characterization is advantageous. The work programme requires several stays outside Braunschweig for several days and a four-to-five-week training at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena. The project provides the opportunity for research stays with the french project partner at the Department of Genetics and Evolutionary Ecology of Université Paris-Saclay.

The Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology at Technische Universität Braunschweig offers an interdisciplinary research environment at the interface between biology, chemistry, and engineering with focus on plant natural products. With almost 20,000 students and 3,700 staff members, Technische Universität Braunschweig is the largest Institute of Technology in Northern Germany. It stands for a strategic and achievement-oriented way of thinking and acting, relevant research, exceptional teaching and the successful transfer of knowledge and technologies to industry and society. We consistently advocate family friendliness and equal opportunities. Our campus is located at the heart of one of Europe's most active research regions. We cooperate closely and successfully with more than 20 research institutions right on our doorstep and maintain strong relationships with our partner universities all over the world.

At TU Braunschweig, we aim to increase the share of women in academic positions and therefore particularly welcome applications from women. Where candidates have the same qualifications, preference will be given to disabled candidates (certificate has to be provided with the application). Application costs cannot be refunded. In the course of the selection procedure, personal data will be recorded. **Please send your application (including motivation letter, CV and certificates) to Prof. Dr. Ute Wittstock (u.wittstock@tu-bs.de, phone +49 (0) 531 391-5681, project leader) until 22 November 2020 (please submit your application as one pdf document).**