

The Chair of Conservation Biology and Forest Ecology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany, is inviting applications for a

### **Researcher Position**

in the field of conservation biology and entomology in part time (0.65 FTE). The contract will start on 1 May 2026 and will be for a fixed term to end on 30 April 2030. Remuneration will be based on the collective agreement for the public service of German federal states (Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder, TV-L). The place of employment will be the Ecological Field Station Fabrikschleichach (<https://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/cofe>).

The project is part of the project “Bavarian Artificial Intelligence for insect monitoring - bAlmo” within the framework of the Bavarian Climate Research Network (bayklif2). The project aims to combine classical knowledge in field entomology with AI and large data modelling. All fieldwork and modelling will be closely supervised by the research group of Prof Dr. Jörg Müller at the Chair of Conservation Biology with specific support by Julian Bittermann, expert for moths and butterflies, as well as the collaboration partners Dr. Maximilian Pichler (Regensburg) and Dr. Eva Katharina Engelhardt (Würzburg).

#### **The successful applicant will work in four different fields:**

1. Seasonal effects on insect populations: Here we aim to infer seasonal effects on insect populations and test the weather sensitivity of different insect species based on long-term monitoring data and multispecies Malaise-Trap data across Germany.
2. Assessment of the relationship of different survey method results: Depending on the focus of the insect sampling, different survey methods exist to assess different aspects of insect occurrences. Therefore, we aim to sample the same area with Malaise traps, standardized observations via transect counts, and compare these results to citizen science observations to assess the differences between the survey methods. This will be conducted replicated in four contrasting climate regions of Bavaria to test for sampling effort under different weather conditions temporarily or spatially.
3. Identification of indicator species: Here the aim is to identify focal species, which can serve as indicators species in Joint distribution models of the Pichler team and to inform future scenarios from the Engelhardt team. To this end, the PhD student will use the data from 1 and 2 in addition to observation data from public sources provided by the Engelhardt team to test whether a representative species set can be identified.
4. Improve monitoring (low detectability requires more sampling effort): The aim here is to develop a strategy of targeted increased sampling efforts during periods of low detectability. To this end, the PhD student will use the extension of existing standard monitoring protocols with varying sampling intensities in 2. and will support the development of an adopted insect monitoring strategy taking variation in sample coverage due to unfavorable weather conditions into account.

#### **The following qualifications are required:**

- A university degree in ecology, biology or biodiversity (with a focus on entomology and modelling)
- Experience in insect (e.g. butterflies, bees or grasshoppers) data collection in the field.
- Statistical modelling in R (preferred)
- Relevant English language skills
- As the position involves conducting fieldwork, candidates must have a driving licence and car.

The position is intended to serve the qualification of young academics and offers the opportunity to pursue a doctorate. JMU aims to reduce the underrepresentation of women and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will be given preferential consideration in the case of broadly equal suitability, ability and professional achievements.

The **closing date** for applications is **31 January 2026**. Please submit your convincing application and supporting documents - preferably by email in one single PDF file - to [oekologische-station@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:oekologische-station@uni-wuerzburg.de).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Prof. Dr. Jörg Müller on +49 931 31-83378 or at [joerg.mueller@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:joerg.mueller@uni-wuerzburg.de).

Please do not send any original documents to us; only send photocopies. As we need to save costs, we will not be able to return your documents to you. They will be shredded shortly after a hiring decision has been made. If you enclose a postage-paid return envelope, we will return your application documents to you three months after a hiring decision has been made.

Postal address: Ökologische Station Fabrikschleichach, Glashüttenstr. 5, 96181 Rauenebrach

