

BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing  
**PhD - host-parasite dynamics & pest control**

Application deadline: **24.8.2014**

### **PhD position in Evolution and Ecology**

Pay grade 13 TVöD (65% of standard working hours), 18 + 18 months fixed-term contract

start date: as soon as possible

**Job description:** Alongside sexual reproduction and multicellularity, eusociality is considered one of the major transitions in evolution. Outside of Hymenoptera, advanced eusociality has evolved in one other major insect group: the termites. A fundamental trait shared between termites and hymenopteran societies is social immunity, but its evolution and mechanistic basis remains poorly understood. This project aims to use state-of-the-art molecular methods within a comparative experimental framework to address the evolution and ecology of socially mediated immunity in termites. The project will focus on understanding the role of sociality in host-parasite interactions. In particular, the candidate will apply life-history theory to understand how behavioural and physiological host responses vary across species, and how ecology and caste shape individual and social immunity.

**Position description:** We are seeking an ambitious person to contribute to the development of a new research group in evolution and ecology of insects. Our focus is on fundamental questions in host-parasite dynamics, but applied elements (e.g. pest control) may also be possible within this framework. The selected candidate will have opportunities to attend taught courses at the Free University of Berlin. The successful candidate will register for a PhD at Free University of Berlin and will need to meet the language requirements for a research degree.

**Profile requirements:** The candidate should have a good Masters degree in Biology covering basic knowledge in evolution and ecology. Experience or interest in ecological aspects and studies of symbiotic or parasitic interactions are important criteria in selecting the candidate. A requirement is a willingness to work in an interdisciplinary and international environment. Very good knowledge in English is necessary; and knowledge of German is an advantage.

For informal enquiries about the position and potential suitability, please contact Prof. Dr. Dino McMahon via email, including a brief CV ( [dino-peter.mcmahon@bam.de](mailto:dino-peter.mcmahon@bam.de) ) or telephone ( [+49 30 8104-3837](tel:+493081043837) ).

BAM is trying to increase the percentage of women in academic positions and thus encourages suitably qualified women to apply. Suitably qualified seriously handicapped candidates will be given preference; they need only to meet minimum physical requirements.

Please send your formal application including a 2-page CV and up to 3-page statement of research in English by mail, quoting reference number 128/14 - 4., at latest until August 24th 2014 to the following address:

BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing  
Division Z.3, reference number 128/14 - 4.  
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12205 Berlin  
Germany