

Postdoctoral bioinformatician in Evolutionary genomics, UNamur, BE A 3-year postdoctoral bioinformatician position is available to work on the genome evolution of bdelloid rotifers within the group of Prof. Karine Van Doninck (Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics and Ecology) at the University of Namur (Belgium). The postdoctoral researcher will work on two projects, funded by ARC and FNRS-MIS, with as main objective to investigate the origin and causes of the genomic peculiarities found in the bdelloid rotifer *A. vaga*. Using next-generation sequencing (NGS) we previously characterized the degenerate tetraploid genome structure of the bdelloid rotifer *Adineta vaga* with massive genomic rearrangements involving most of the longest scaffolds. As a consequence, no homologous pair of chromosomes could be identified within this genome providing the first genomic hallmark of ameiotic evolution within this bdelloid rotifer clade. Another peculiarity observed in the genome of *A. vaga* is the high percentage of genes (8%) of non-metazoan origin and probably acquired through horizontal gene transfer (HGT) (see Flot et al. *Nature* 2013). These features could be conferred by their long-term ameiotic evolution. Nonetheless, the unusual lifestyle of many bdelloid rotifers, involving repeated cycles of desiccation and the associated DNA DSBs (see Hespeels et al. *JEB* 2014), may also contribute to genome structure evolution. In order to determine the origin and causes of these genomic peculiarities we are starting a comparative analysis of genomes of different bdelloid species that diverged a long time ago, including lineages that have lost the ability to withstand desiccation, and of an *A. vaga* clone submitted to several rounds of desiccation. The postdoc will conduct bioinformatic analyses of genomic (and transcriptomic) data generated by the team. The current team of researchers working on bdelloid rotifers within the 2 projects include 3 Principal Investigators (Prof. K. Van Doninck and Dr. F. Chainiaux from UNamur and Prof. B. Hallet from UCL), 2 postdoctoral researchers, 3 PhD students, 2 Master students and 2 technicians. ***Contacts:** Prof. Karine Van Doninck, karine.vandoninck@unamur.be

University of Namur, Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics and Ecology

<http://www.lege-unamur.be>

***Application:** Applicants should have a PhD in a relevant area. Priority will be given to candidates with a proven track record (with several publications as a first author) who will express their motivation to the project. The position is for 3 years starting latest on the 1st of July 2015.

***The closing date for applications is 5th of May, 2015.**

*Interested applicants should send a cover letter (briefly describing research experience, interests, and career goal), curriculum vitae (with list of publications), and the names of three references (including address, phone number and Email) to Karine VAN DONINCK (

karine.vandoninck@unamur.be

)** -- Karine VAN DONINCK Full Professor Department of Biology T. +32 (0)81 724 407 F. +32 (0)81 724 362

karine.vandoninck@unamur.be

<http://perso.fundp.ac.be/~kvandoni/>

Université de Namur ASBL Rue de Bruxelles 61 - 5000 Namur Belgique Let's respect the environment together. Only print this message if necessary! Karine Van Doninck <

karine.vandoninck@fundp.ac.be

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