

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin, Department of Evolutionary Ecology
PhD - response to fungal infections in hibernating bats Application deadline: 15.7.2015

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http://www.dzg-ev.de/de/stellenboerse/ausschreibungen/2015/phd_berlin2015b.pdf]

The Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin is Germany's premier wildlife research institute, one of eight research institutes in the Forschungsverbund Berlin e. V., a member of the Leibniz Association and jointly funded by the German federal and state governments. The IZW focuses on the life histories and mechanisms of evolutionary adaptations of mammals, their limits and their conservation in natural and anthropogenically influenced environments. The institute operates within the fields of wildlife health and diseases, reproductive biology and medicine, and evolutionary ecology and genetics. The Department of Evolutionary Ecology offers (beginning October 1, 2015) a **PhD-Position on the energetics and immunology of fungal infections in hibernating European bats**

Recently, a European fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, has been introduced to North America, where it causes massive mortalities in hibernating bats. Seemingly, European bats may contract the fungal infection during hibernation, but appear to recover and survive. In this project, we would like to investigate the energetics and immunology of fungal infections to understand why European bats survive and North American bat species suffer lethally from the fungus.

Specific tasks include

- Participation in the multidisciplinary project on the energetics and immunology of fungal infections in bats;
- Experimental work on captive and free-living bats before, during and after hibernation;
- Responsibility for the maintenance of captive bats;
- Capturing and radio-tracking of free-ranging bats;
- Measurement of metabolic and immunological parameters in bats;
- Data analysis and manuscript preparation.

Requirements

- Diploma or Master of Science in Biology or related fields;
- Very good knowledge in both German and English;
- Strong background in animal physiology and statistics (R);
- Experience in handling small mammals, preferentially bats;

- Organizational skills and ability to work in a team;
- Experience in field studies, willingness to work sometimes under extreme conditions (cold temperature and night shifts);
- European driver licence.

The position is initially limited to two years, with the possibility for extension to a maximum of three years. The reimbursement occurs according to TVöD (50%). The IZW is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women are strongly encouraged. Preference will be given to disabled applicants with the same qualifications. For further information please contact PD Dr. Christian Voigt (Tel. +49 30 5168-517; E-mail voigt@izw-berlin.de , www.batlab.de) Dr. Gabor Czirják (Tel. +49 30 5168-214; Email czirjak@izw-berlin.de

). Applicants should submit a letter explaining their interests in and particular skills for this position, a CV, copies of relevant degrees and contact details of two people who can provide a reference before July 15th, 2015 via the IZW's online-job-market (button "Apply online"). Leibniz-Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung
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