

The Institute of Biodiversity of the Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, is offering a two-year limited position to be filled as soon as possible for a

Research Scientist with expertise in Bioinformatics / Microbial Ecology

The Thünen Institute of Biodiversity provides science-based results and concepts for the protection, support and utilization of biological diversity. The Institute focusses on agricultural soils and agroecosystems and has its core competence in the area of natural science and ecology.

The Thünen Institute is a German research institute under the auspices of the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). Besides conducting leading research, it provides scientific support in the decision-making of the German government. The Institute of Biodiversity studies life in agroecosystems, especially in regard to the utilization and protection of biodiversity including plants, animals, and microorganisms.

The successful candidate will be part of the Microbiology and Molecular Ecology group lead by Prof. Dr. Christoph Tebbe. The group is an international team studying the Microbial Ecology of soil and other environments. The structural and functional diversity of microbial communities and their interactions with their biotic and abiotic environment is assessed in order to analyze the self-organization of microbiomes, their response to land use and agricultural management, and to environmental stressors like climate change or salinity. The group participates in international collaborations supported by the European Commission, the German Science Foundation (DFG), and other funding agencies. It also hosts the triannual Thünen Symposium on Soil Metagenomics. For research, high-throughput DNA sequencing, isotope techniques, and a wide range of classical and molecular tools complemented by multivariate statistical analyses and new graphical visualization techniques are routinely applied. Within the Thünen Institute, high-end facilities and in-house expertise in agronomy, soil science, and chemical analytics are available.

Tasks

- Analysis of high-throughput DNA sequencing data and environmental parameters from previous and ongoing research projects characterizing microbial diversity and its responses to environmental factors
- Maintaining an up-to-date bioinformatical and statistical toolset, evaluating and implementing newly published methods in metagenomics, metatranscriptomics, statistics, and data visualization
- Developing strategies to assess spatial and temporal ecological patterns and interactions within microbial communities
- Collaborating and supporting the exchange of experience with bioinformatics and statistical analyses within the Thünen Institute and with partners in national and international projects
- Generation of reports, presentations, and manuscripts for publication in international, peer-reviewed journals. Presentation of the results at internal and external meetings, workshops, and conferences
- Assist in the organization of workshops and the development of new research ideas and grant writing



Your profile

- PhD in microbiology, biotechnology, bioinformatics or related disciplines
- Great interest in agricultural and environmental topics
- Knowledge in molecular microbial ecology, next-generation DNA sequencing technologies, and bioinformatics
- Knowledge in general and applied ecology would be appreciated
- Experience with multivariate statistics
- Experience with R, Linux systems, and programming is an advantage
- Ability to work independently and strong capacity for interdisciplinary teamwork
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)
- Willingness to travel within Europe (days to weeks) for collaborations
- German language skills are advantageous but not required

We offer the possibility to work in an active and stimulating scientific environment on questions of high relevance at the intersection between basic and applied life science and agriculture. The position allows to participate in different projects and to interact with colleagues within and outside of the Thünen Institute. The Thünen Institute offers a family-friendly environment, flexible working hours and the possibility for further training and qualification.

The employment is governed by the Wage Agreement for Public Services (TVöD-Bund). The payment of remuneration is carried out according to tariff-category 13 TVöD. Part-time employment is in principal possible.

The temporary employment period is in accordance with § 14 Abs. 2 of the *German Teilzeit- und Befristungs-gesetz*. The announcement is therefore addressed exclusively to persons who have not been employees of the Federal Republic of Germany with either a time-limited or unlimited contract.

The Thünen Institute promotes the professional equality of women and men and is thus especially interested in applications from women.

Severely disabled applicants with equal qualification will be given particular consideration. Only a minimum physical aptitude is expected from them.

Please contact Prof. Dr. Christoph Tebbe (+49 531 596 2553; Email: christoph.tebbe@thuenen.de) for enquiries about the position.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and copies of relevant certificates. Electronic submission is preferred. E-mail all application material must be compiled in a single pdf-document (subject "Bioinformatics and Ecology position") and submitted not later than **February 25, 2018** to

bd@thuenen.de

Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut
Institut für Biodiversität
Bundesallee 65, 38116 Braunschweig, Germany