HiWi Needed for Wildlife Behavior Research!

We seek a highly motivated student, passionate about wildlife behavior, to work on a study investigating the effects of small mammals on seed removal as part of the RTG 2300 “Enrichment of European beech forests with conifers” in the Wildlife Science Department at the University of Göttingen. The project involves conducting behavioral observations on video footage of small mammals interacting with tree seeds or more typical rodent bait. The study aims to determine if there are preferences for seeds of certain tree species or differences in the seed removal rates between different rodent species.

The student research assistant will focus on observation of small mammal behaviors and seed interactions captured by wildlife cameras. This requires a significant amount of time in the lab to categorize and catalog behaviors from the videos. For each video clip where a small mammal is present, its behavior will be observed, recorded, and assigned to predefined categories.

As part of a diverse, collaborative international research group, you will gain experience with wildlife behavior research methods, as well as the design and analysis of ecological experiments more generally. The methods used in this study are state of the art, and motivated students will leave the position with a solid understanding of modern wildlife research.

Successful applicants will demonstrate a high motivation for scientific work, attention to detail, patience, an ability to accurately and efficiently follow project protocols, and a sense of responsibility for the quality of their collected data. English proficiency is required, and the majority of work must be completed in-person at the wildlife science department at the Uni-Göttingen north campus using department computers and technology resources. Working hours are flexible but students are expected to complete a minimum of 10 hours of work per week.

Expectations
The student will assist with small mammal behavioral observations and seed preference trials. The main task of the HiWi will be wildlife photo/video analysis. This includes, among other things:

- Observation of pre-recorded small mammal behavior
- Accurate recording of data
- Data entry and other tasks as required

Starting date: As soon as possible, 60-80 hours per month for up to 4 months.
Financial support: Students will be paid hourly according to standard university HiWi rates.

Applications should include: (1) a motivation letter (including personal and research interest in project, relevant skills, and experience), (2) Curriculum vitae, and (3) a photo of your favorite animal.

Please submit your application electronically as a single document (PDF preferred) by August 30, 2021. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis as they are received, so do not hesitate to send your application before the deadline! If I have enough qualified applicants before the deadline, the position may be closed early.

Applications and questions should be sent to: Scott Appleby, scott.appleby@forst.uni-goettingen.de