BSc Project: Forest Small Mammal Communities

The Wildlife Science Department at the University of Göttingen invites applications for a BSc student project. The bachelors thesis will be part of a study investigating the effects of forest management on small mammal community structure and composition. This is a collaborative research project of the **RTG 2300**, with the overall aim of the research group being to study the ecosystem effects of mixing Norway spruce or Douglas fir with European beech. You will work with an international group of students and researchers at field sites located throughout Lower Saxony and gain valuable wildlife research experience including many new and upcoming methodologies.

We seek a highly motivated and passionate student to work on a sub-project with small mammal live-trapping for mark-recapture analysis. The primary objective of the student will be to collect data during the summer fieldwork period and then analyze abundance and biodiversity patterns of small mammals across different forest types. Students are encouraged to research and develop their own specific thesis topics within the framework of the project.

Following training to set traps, handle and identify small mammals, and follow field protocols, the successful students will work with the project's lead PhD student to survey small mammals at 8 sites across Lower Saxony for 5 days at each site. There will also be opportunities to gain experience with wildlife cameras and other technologies to assess small mammal behavior and decision making. Students will be part of a cooperative, multi-disciplinary team, and may be supervised by Prof. Dr. Niko Balkenhol or another professor depending on your faculty or university.

Starting date:	July 1, with primary field work July 6 – September 4, 2020, plus field training in June for small mammal handling and identification.
Financial support:	Transportation is provided to and from field sites. Housing will be provided when working at field sites >1hr from Göttingen, and material costs are covered.

These positions require long days in the field and flexible schedules, so a sense of humor, positive attitude, patience, and self-motivation are essential. Successful students will have demonstrable academic and/or field experience, work well independently and with others, communicate effectively in a variety of situations, demonstrate a willingness and ability to live in shared housing, enjoy working outdoors, and be conscientious about safety. A driver's license is a plus but not required. Basic knowledge of statistics and some experience with the R software package is desirable. English proficiency is necessary, though you may write your thesis in German.

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 **June 5, 2020**. *Applications will be considered on a rolling basis as they are received, so do not hesitate to send your application before the deadline!* Applications and questions should be sent to: Mr. Scott Appleby, scott.appleby@forst.uni-goettingen.de