



Postdoctoral Position Genomics of Migration

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Behavioural Genomics

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The Max Planck Research Group Behavioural Genomics combines several biological disciplines including evolutionary genomics, bioinformatics, molecular biology, behavioural experiments and fieldwork, and utilises emergent technologies to identify the genetic basis of migratory traits.

Here we focus on identifying the genes and signaling pathways behind the components shaping the migratory phenotype in the blackcap, a well characterised migratory songbird species. We complement the sequencing approach with gene expression profiling and characterisation of chromatin modification to investigate the extent of phenotypic variation manifested by expression differences, either through slight genetic differences or epigenetic processes.

Our core project aims to understand: *Which genes harbour coding variation with relevant consequences for migratory traits, and which signalling cascades are involved in shaping the migratory phenotype?*

The ideal candidate holds a PhD in Biology with a strong background in bioinformatics and skills in programming (scripts and analysis pipelines). Experience in identification and characterizing of behaviorally regulated genes, expression profiling, avian neurobiology or genome editing are great assets. The successful candidate will participate in fundamental research questions on migratory genomics. As a central member of the group, the postdoc has good communication and organization skills and will take part in supervising students. I highly appreciate a creative postdoc who is motivated to contribute to and extends our research agenda with own ideas to understand the genetic architecture of migratory traits. The position will be offered for 2 years with the possibility of extension, starting date is negotiable.

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology offers a stimulating and ambitious international working environment. Excellent infrastructure is available at all levels, including a new high-performance computer clusters and next-generation sequencing core facilities. The Institutes main fields of work include evolutionary ecology (Prof. Milinski), evolutionary genetics (Prof. Tautz) and evolutionary theory (Prof. Traulsen) and hosts a number of research groups providing ample opportunities for collaborations and interactions. The MPI in Plön further collaborates with the nearby Christian Albrechts University of Kiel and the GEOMAR (Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research) in a joint International Max Planck Research School that attracts PhD students from abroad, which contributes to a multicultural working atmosphere. The city of Plön is surrounded by lakes, the Baltic Sea is nearby, offering plenty of opportunity for leisure and outdoor activities. The nearby ports of Kiel and Travemünde provide access to Scandinavia, the closest airports are Hamburg and Lübeck.

The Max Planck Society is committed to also employing handicapped individuals and especially encourages them to apply. The Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.



Applications should include 1) a cover letter outlining your motivation, specific interest in this project and your relevant experience, 2) a detailed curriculum vitae and copies of certificates, and 3) the contact details of three academic referees. Please send the above as a single PDF file to liedvogel@evolbio.mpg.de.

Review of applications will start on March 24th 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. Feel free to contact me for more information.