

MScProject:Berlin.ParasiteEvolution

Our group (Disease Evolutionary Ecology, at IGB Berlin) is currently looking for a Master's student interested in the following project*:

- **Evolution of parasitism in phytoplankton-infecting chytrids**

In aquatic environments, a broad range of microscopic algae such as diatoms, dinoflagellates, green algae or cyanobacteria is frequently infected by unicellular fungi belonging to the so-called "chytrids". Despite their potential to play a major role in phytoplankton dynamics, we know little about the evolution of parasitism in this group. Next to saprophytic chytrids, many exclusively parasitic lineages exist. Whether the parasitic lifestyle evolved only once in a common ancestor or several times independently is currently completely unknown. We welcome students keen to address this question using molecular phylogenetic methods (including lab and computer work).

**please note that MSc positions in Germany are financially self-supported by the applicant (one could apply for a financial support e.g. from the Erasmus programme).*

YOU'LL LEARN

- mastering a micromanipulator (allowing you to isolate even the tiniest organisms)
- working with cutting-edge lab and sequencing techniques
- inferring phylogenetic trees using probabilistic methods (maximum likelihood, Bayesian inference)

WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?

An inspiring atmosphere in an international research group. We will provide you with a proper level of guidance and supervision during your project, as well as space for autonomous work. We offer a real research experience, which will help you in your future career inside or outside of academia (note that Master's and Bachelor's projects often resulted in peer-reviewed publications). If you are interested in the research topic please send an e-mail with "IGB_MScThesis" in the subject line to Dr. Jürgen Strassert (juergen.strassert@igb-berlin.de).