



Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

As a University of Excellence, Universität Hamburg is one of the strongest research universities in Germany. As a flagship university in the greater Hamburg region, it nurtures innovative, cooperative contacts to partners within and outside academia. It also provides and promotes sustainable education, knowledge, and knowledge exchange locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Center of Natural History (CeNak), Universität Hamburg invites applications for a

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR THE PROJECT “CENOZOIC ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS IN EUROPE DEDUCED FROM ARACHNIDS PRESERVED IN AMBER”

- SALARY LEVEL 13 TV-L -

The position in accordance with Section 28 subsection 3 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG) commences on 1 May 2021.

This is a fixed-term contract in accordance with Section 2 of the academic fixed-term labor contract act (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz, WissZeitVG). The term is fixed for a period of 3 years. The position calls for 75 % of standard work hours per week**.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Duties include academic services in the project named above. Research associates may also pursue independent research and further academic qualifications.

SPECIFIC DUTIES:

The project, "Cenozoic Ecosystem Dynamics in Europe Deduced from Fossil Arachnids Preserved in Amber," aims at using arachnid fossils preserved in European Eocene/Oligocene amber to reconstruct past ecosystem and climatic conditions. The arachnid faunas preserved in these ambers shall be documented in order to assess diversity levels and community composition, as well as differences between the various amber types. In addition, the effects of ecosystem shifts and past climate variability shall be examined from an arachnid perspective. Evolutionary trends and biogeographical scenarios for the European arachnid fauna will be studied and key fossils described within a taxonomic framework. A database for these fossils and their traits (morphological, biological) will be developed.

The departments of Arachnology and Palaeontology at the CeNak are inviting a motivated and driven PhD student to contribute to this project funded by the German Research Council (DFG). The candidate shall analyse arachnids preserved in amber using a variety of methods, including microscopy, computer tomography and synchrotron X-ray imaging.

* Full-time positions currently comprise 39 hours per week.

She/He shall contribute to the taxonomic description of key arachnid fossils, the analysis of traits derived from the fossil fauna, the development of a database that will document these fossils alongside ecological and climatic traits, and statistical analyses involving these data. This information will serve as the basis for qualitative and quantitative climatic reconstructions of the various ecosystems represented in amber, as well as the characterization of the European amber deposits from the Paleogene.

REQUIREMENTS:

A university degree in a relevant field. Preferred is a MSc or a related degree in Biology or Geosciences with a focus in Palaeontology and/or Evolutionary Biology. An interest in arachnology and the evolution and palaeontology of arachnids is desirable. Experience with other systematic groups represented in amber will be useful, as well as experience with statistical methods and software such as R, Past or Systat. Fluent knowledge of English is expected and will be necessary for presenting results at conferences as well as in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The ability to work in an interdisciplinary, international team is necessary. Experience with amber and related preparation methods is desirable, though not necessary. Similarly desirable is experience with microscopy, digital imaging microtomography, and related software such as AMIRA. Willingness to work on this project for personal academic achievement (especially towards a Ph.D degree) is expected.

For further questions please contact Dr. Danilo Harms or Dr. Ulrich Kotthoff.

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg promotes equal opportunity. As men are currently underrepresented in this job category at Universität Hamburg according to the evaluation conducted under the Hamburg act on gender equality (Hamburgisches Gleichstellungsgesetz, HambGleiG), we encourage men to apply for this position. Equally qualified and suitable male applicants will receive preference.

Qualified disabled candidates or applicants with equivalent status receive preference in the application process.

For further information, please contact Danilo Harms (danilo.harms@uni-hamburg.de) or consult our website at <https://www.cenak.uni-hamburg.de>.

Applications should include a cover letter, a tabular curriculum vitae, and copies of degree certificate(s). Please send applications by 30 January 2021 to: Universität Hamburg, Dr. Danilo Harms, Centrum für Naturkunde - CeNak, Martin-Luther-King-Platz 3, 20146 Hamburg or to danilo.harms@uni-hamburg.de.

Please do not submit original documents as we are **not** able to return them. Any documents submitted will be destroyed after the application process has concluded.