



# 2 PhD positions. Functional and evolutionary genetics of seminal fluid.

**Two Ph.D. student positions** are available in the **Department of Evolutionary Biology** at **Bielefeld University** in **Germany** to study the functional and evolutionary genetics of seminal fluid in *Macrostomum* flatworms. This emerging model system for studying sexual selection, sexual conflict and sex allocation in simultaneous hermaphrodites exhibits rich reproductive diversity and many methodological advantages (e.g. transparency, genomics, and molecular tools such as RNAi). We will take full advantage of these features in this project, which aims to discover what seminal proteins are produced by the main model species *M. lignano*, what these proteins do, and how seminal fluid proteins vary within and between species.

The positions are offered as part of a DFG-funded research project for up to 3 years (salary at 65% of the TV-L E13 scale), and the start date is flexible (January 2014 onwards). The Department of Evolutionary Biology at Bielefeld University offers a stimulating research environment, with five PIs all engaged in sexual selection research on a variety of model systems (see <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/Evolutionsbiologie/index.html>). We are an international team of scientists, and the working language of the Department is English. The project will further benefit from the involvement of international cooperation partners in Switzerland, Austria and The Netherlands.

Applicants should have a strong background (including an M.Sc. or equivalent) in evolutionary biology or a related field. One Ph.D. student will likely focus on the functional characterisation of seminal fluid and the other on evolutionary genetics aspects, but the specific focus of each project will be developed together with the successful candidates. Previous experience with molecular biology, quantitative genetics and/or molecular evolution would be an advantage, but is not required; full training will be provided. To apply, please send a letter of motivation (including research interests, skills and relevant experience), a CV, contact details for 2-3 referees and (if available) a copy of your M.Sc. thesis, all as a single pdf file, to Dr. Steven Ramm ([steven.ramm@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:steven.ramm@uni-bielefeld.de)). Review of applicants will begin on 31st October, but applications will continue to be accepted until the positions are filled.

