



Biozentrum // Zoologie

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## **Announcement for a EU funded PhD position “Head shape variation and biomechanics of Thysanoptera and Hemiptera”**

The recently established workgroup of Dr. Blanke (<http://www.zoologie.uni-koeln.de/blanke.html?&L=1>) at the Institute of Zoology of the University of Cologne invites applications for a EU funded PhD position.

The project will be focused on the head morphology and biomechanics of Thysanoptera and early branched Hemiptera. The overall goal is to understand the interplay of shape, mechanics and ecological niche variations within the head system of these insects. The PhD project is embedded within a larger project which will focus on the biomechanical transition between the biting-chewing and the piercing-sucking mouthpart class in an evolutionary framework.

We are seeking a highly motivated applicant, ideally with a background in evolutionary/comparative morphology, biomechanics and/or imaging and with a Master degree or equivalent in Biological Sciences, or Engineering Sciences or Computer Sciences. Prospective candidates should have proven skills/background in at least 75% of the following topics:

- Insect morphology and evolution (a previous focus on Condylgnatha is a plus but not mandatory).
- Geometric morphometrics applications.
- Statistics and the related analysis workflows in R or Matlab.
- Experience in the analysis of large image datasets (Histological and microCT based) using state-of-the-art workflows and software packages.

The project will involve both experimental and computational approaches and a certain amount of fieldwork in Germany and abroad. The successful candidate will need to be able to work independently, as well as part of a team. While training will be available, the student will also be expected to develop proficiency in the analysis types outlined above via attendance of workshops and self-motivated learning. The successful applicant will also have the opportunity to present their work at national and international conferences, and to collaborate with other research groups at an international and interdisciplinary level.

The position is paid at TV-L E13 65% for 36 months.

Applications without photograph and without date of birth should contain a letter of motivation (1 page or less), a CV, your 3 favourite own publications (if you have any), a summary of previous research and programming/scripting experience (1 page or less) and contact details of 2 references. Inquiries can be made with Alexander Blanke ([a.blanke@uni-koeln.de](mailto:a.blanke@uni-koeln.de)).

The application (as a single pdf file) should be sent to the secretary of the Neurophysiology Department ([office-neuro-physiol@uni-koeln.de](mailto:office-neuro-physiol@uni-koeln.de)) with the reference number **Wiss1808-03**.

**The deadline for application is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the estimated start date would be February 2019.**

The University of Cologne promotes equal opportunities and diversity in its employment relations. Women are expressly encouraged to apply and given priority in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We expressly welcome applications from individuals with severe disabilities or people of equivalent status. Severely disabled applicants of equal merit and qualifications will be given priority.

