

**Job announcement - ref.#08-21008**

The Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung (SGN) was founded in 1817 and is one of the most important research institutions in the field of biodiversity. At its eleven locations throughout Germany, scientists from over 40 nations conduct cutting-edge research on an international level. At the Görlitz site, the prestigious Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz (SMNG) is located in a historic town with a very liveable region that is particularly close to nature.

For the BMBF project „BonaRes - Centre for Soil Research“, the **Department of Soil Zoology** of the **Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG)** is looking for a

**Research Associate (m/f/d)**  
**Soil Biodiversity and Agriculture**

Within the framework of the research program „Soils as Sustainable Resource for the Bioeconomy - BonaRes“, launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the „BonaRes - Centre for Soil Research“ is a central project. Aims of the Centre are the provision of soil-related data in standardized form, the development of integrative model tools to evaluate land-use options regarding their sustainability, and the development of a web-based portal for knowledge-based options for farming strategies and soil-use management. To face these challenges, an interdisciplinary group has been established from the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), the Technical University of Munich, the Senckenberg Nature Research Society (SGN), and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). Within this consortium, the SGN elucidates and quantifies the effects of agricultural methods on soil animal communities as well as the impact of soil animals on soil processes and functions through the review and statistical analysis of world-wide research results in scientific publications.

The Centre will soon enter a new funding period, in which the SGN tasks are divided into a first 2-year and a second 1-year phase. The research associate will help the SGN team meet the milestones of the first phase. The position will (1) quantify (via systematic reviews and meta-analyses of literature data) the effects of different agricultural practices (concerning compaction) on soil fauna, (2) help review and analyze (meta-analyses) literature data to assess and quantify soil-faunal bioturbation and its effects in agroecosystems, as well as (3) help systematically review existing meta-analyses on soil-faunal effects on soil processes. These assessments will focus on, i.e., Lumbricidae, Enchytraeidae, Nematoda, Collembola (preferably at a functional-group level). The results of the meta-analyses and systematic reviews will be used to quantify models of agricultural methods on soil functionality as well as in fact sheets for stakeholders. While a basic knowledge of soil animals and biodiversity analyses is necessary, fieldwork and animal determination is not intended.

**The tasks of this job entail:**

- Meta-analyses and assessments of literature data on bioturbation and the effects of soil compaction on soil fauna
- Systematically review existing meta-analyses on soil-faunal effects on soil processes
- Identification of functional groups (based on character traits) of soil fauna (i.e. Lumbricidae, Enchytraeidae, Collembola, Nematoda) affected by agricultural measures
- Establishment and preparation of quantified soil-biological functional data for models
- Writing fact sheets and high-quality publications on the research content
- Preparation of project mid-term reports; representation and presentation of the results at project status seminars, conferences, etc.

## Your profile:

- Higher degree (Masters, or equivalent; PhD) in soil ecology or a related topic with a thorough knowledge of soil fauna
- Working knowledge of agricultural and soil-management methods
- Basic knowledge of methods of evidence synthesis, i.e., systematic literature reviews
- Basic knowledge of meta-analysis statistics, i.e., mixed-effects models
- Familiarity with transdisciplinary research environments, especially in soil (biodiversity) research
- Publication experience, excellent written and oral presentation skills
- Outstanding command of spoken and written German and English
- Willingness to travel (project meetings, conferences)
- Ability to integration, you are a team player and have personal resilience

## This is what you can expect:

- An attractive, responsible and challenging position in a globally recognized research institution with motivated and professional colleagues
- Flexible working hours – family-friendly working conditions (certified by the "audit berufundfamilie") – open and collegial environment – Senckenberg badge in connection with free admission to all Senckenberg museums – special annual payment (according to TV-L) – company pension scheme

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Görlitz</b>
<b>Scope of employment:</b>	<b>Full-time (40 hours/week)</b>
<b>Type of contract:</b>	<b>The position can start on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and is limited to two years. The position is conditional to project approval by the funding agency.</b>
<b>Remuneration:</b>	<b>EG 13 according to the German collective agreement TV-L</b>

Severely disabled applicants will be given special preference in case of equal suitability. Compliance with the regulations of the law on part-time work is guaranteed. Senckenberg is certified by the "audit berufundfamilie".

## You are interested in applying?

Please send your application **until January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, (application deadline)** by e-mail (attachment in a single pdf document), mentioning the reference of this position (**Ref. #08-21008**) and including a letter outlining your suitability, a detailed CV, educational transcripts, contact details of 2 references and a list of your publications to:

**Dr. David Russell**  
**c/o Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz**  
**02806 Görlitz**  
**E-Mail: [recruiting@senckenberg.de](mailto:recruiting@senckenberg.de)**



Applications can also be directly submitted on our homepage [www.senckenberg.de/de/karriere/bewerbung/](http://www.senckenberg.de/de/karriere/bewerbung/) via the online application form.

For scientific enquiries please contact Dr. David Russell, +49 (0)3581 / 4760-5502.