NATURKUNDE
MUSEUM
STUTTGART

The State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (SMNS) is one of the largest and most popular natural history museums in Germany. As a modern research museum, we see ourselves as a bridge between science and society, offering a vibrant platform for dialogue and exchange. Innovation arises where cutting-edge research meets our unique collection and creative outreach. We are passionately committed to the conservation of biodiversity. Our aim is to preserve the foundations of life and thus help shape a positive future.

Our motto, 'On A Mission For Diversity', shapes the work of our 190 staff members from all over the world. We value diverse talents and perspectives, foster team spirit and place great importance on a positive and supportive working environment.

We are seeking to fill a position as soon as possible:

Technician position (m/f/d) in Plant Ecology

Full-time (100%), fixed-term for 6 months
Remuneration in accordance with TV-L E 9a
Applications accepted until 15 November 2026

This position is part of HYPERSPACE, an international research project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG, Germany) and the French National Research Agency (ANR, France). The project investigates the patterns and processes underlying plant hyperaccumulation of heavy metals. It takes a multidisciplinary approach, examining gene expression, metal allocation, individual fitness, functional trade-offs and the community-level consequences of hyperaccumulation.

Within the field of functional and comparative ecology, the main task is to contribute to field sample collection and processing. The successful candidate will support the processing of samples for the large-scale characterisation of plant functional traits. The role also involves preparing for and participating in a field campaign in the western United States, in close collaboration with Dr Pierre Liancourt. The technician will work closely with the laboratory of Professor Katja Tielbörger, the principal investigator leading the HYPERSPACE project in Germany.

Your responsibilities will include:

- Implementing and adapting techniques and methods in plant functional ecology, with trait measurements conducted both in the field and in the laboratory. Plant organs (leaves, stems and roots) and soil samples will be analysed for metal concentrations.
- Contributing to data collection, formatting and management, and maintaining detailed records of protocols and procedures.

- Following appropriate hygiene and safety procedures when handling plant and soil samples with elevated metal concentrations, both in the field and in the laboratory.

You have the following skills and knowledge:

- A Bachelor's degree in ecology or an equivalent qualification.
- English proficiency at B2 level or above; C1 or C2 preferred for communication with international partners.
- Basic knowledge of functional ecology and methods for measuring above-ground and root functional traits.
- An understanding of major plant adaptations to exposure to metals and metalloids.
- Experience in sample collection and international transport, including relevant regulatory requirements.
- Experience in functional trait measurements using specialist software such as WinFolia and WinRhizo.
- Enjoyment of fieldwork and the physical fitness required for potentially demanding conditions, including mountainous terrain and remote areas.
- Precision and thoroughness in laboratory work, which will account for a substantial proportion of the role, particularly when handling plant and soil samples with elevated metal concentrations.
- Clear and open communication with a range of stakeholders, including international researchers.
- The ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously, meet deadlines and adapt to changing workloads.
- A valid Category B driving licence.
- Willingness and ability to travel to the United States for fieldwork, subject to applicable travel and entry requirements; travel expenses will be covered by the project.

Here are the benefits we offer:

- The opportunity to develop your career at an internationally renowned research museum.
- A friendly, dynamic and interdisciplinary working environment.
- An attractive workplace in central Stuttgart.
- A subsidised public transport ticket (JobTicket BW).
- Generous core hours, flexible working arrangements and the option to work remotely.
- Core funding for research and conference travel.
- The opportunity to participate in established research projects at the State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (SMNS).
- Family-friendly working conditions.
- Support with learning German, if required.

Please submit your application exclusively via our website, including:

- A cover letter outlining your motivation and a CV.

- The names and contact details of two referees.
- Copies of relevant certificates.

Applications are welcome in English. We strongly encourage women to apply. Diversity and inclusion are central to our values: applications from people with severe disabilities will be given priority where candidates are equally qualified. Since 2019, we hold the 'audit berufundfamilie' certificate and offer working conditions that are demonstrably family- and life-stage-friendly.

Would you like more information? Dr. Pierre Liancourt will be happy to assist you. You can reach him by email at pierre.liancourt@smns-bw.de.

Data protection information for applicants can be found on our website under 'Jobs'.