



Ph.D-Position - N fixation in coral reefs -

The **Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) GmbH** in Bremen is a member of the Leibniz Association, which is supported by the German Federal and State Governments. Through its research, Leibniz-ZMT GmbH contributes to developing science-based strategies for sustainable use of tropical coastal systems (www.zmt-bremen.de).

The ZMT has a vacancy for a Ph.D. student to start in February/March 2012 within the framework of the new project C- and N-fixation of coral reefs in response to environmental factors (**CANCOR**) funded by the German Research Foundation. Several key coral reef C-fixing primary producers (e.g. corals, macro and turf algae) and substrates (e.g. reef sands, dead coral and rocky surfaces), exhibit internal or external association with N-fixing microbes like cyanobacteria. Such association potentially facilitates primary production and growth, but there are no studies that address linkage of C- and N-fixation in corals and their reefs and the controlling environmental factors. Therefore, this research project will quantify N- fixation of key reef primary producers, and how this contributes to overall reef N- fixation. Additionally, the influence of key environmental factors (e.g. light and inorganic nutrient availability, temperature, acidity) on these processes, both on the organism and ecosystem level, will be examined. This comprehensive dataset will help to gain new important insights in coral reef ecosystem functioning and resilience in a time of environmental change. The work for this project will be carried out at the Red Sea and in the ZMT laboratories. The appointment is for a three-year period. Salary will be according to the German TV-L 13 for a half-time position.

Requirements:

Applicants should hold a Master or Diploma degree in marine biology, ecology, geobiology or related fields and should ideally have experience with coral reef ecology and physiology. They should also fluently speak English and possess good scientific writing skills. A SCUBA diving license is an additional asset.

Application:

To apply, please send a motivation letter, a complete CV with list of publications and skills, and names with email addresses and phone numbers of two referees in a single pdf-file to the address below. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Closing Date:

January 31, 2012 or until a qualified candidate is identified. The Leibniz-ZMT GmbH is an equal opportunity employer. Disabled persons with comparable qualification receive preferential status.

Contact:

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