2-Year Postdoc Position: Evolution and Organization of Ant Olfactory Systems
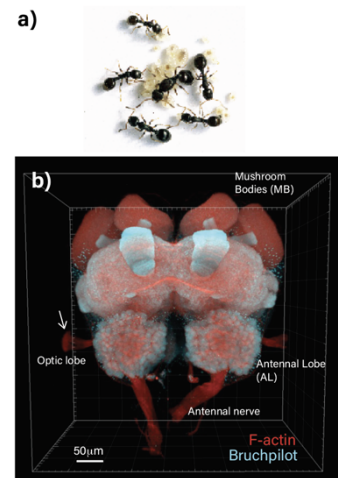
We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to join an interdisciplinary team focused on investigating the evolution and organization of the olfactory system in ants. The team includes Carlotta Martelli (neurobiology and computational biology), Hugo Darras (evolution and genomics), and Susanne Foitzik (behavior and evolution), along with two PhD students.

The project will explore the organizational structure of the olfactory system in *Temnothorax* ants, from genes to neurons to behavior. The long-term goal is to identify evolutionary signatures of non-canonical organizations of the olfactory system and to understand the computational consequences of different architectures for odor coding and behavior. This innovative, interdisciplinary project combines neurobiological and behavioral experiments, molecular genetic analysis, genomics, transcriptomics, and theory.

This position will focus on bioinformatics as applied to genomic, (single-cell) transcriptomic, and neurobiological data, and will be co-supervised by H. Darras and C. Martelli, in collaboration with S. Foitzik. The ideal candidate should have **a strong background in bioinformatics**, ideally with practical or theoretical experience in single-cell transcriptomics or comparative genomics. A keen interest in neurobiology is essential. Additional skills in evolutionary biology, insect handling, and programming (preferably in Python) would be advantageous, but are not mandatory.

Position Details:
Start Date: Available immediately
Duration: 2 years
Contract: TVL-E13

Application Process:
If you are interested in joining our team, please send:
    1. A letter of motivation
    2. Your CV
    3. Contact information for two referees
in a combined pdf to cmartell@uni-mainz.de. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and candidates will be considered in the order they are received.

For additional information, please contact us!
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