



Research assistant position – Neuroethology of hawkmoth flower inspection

We are looking for a research assistant in the Department of Behavioral Physiology & Sociobiology at the University of Würzburg. The Stöckl lab studies the visual neuroethology of hawkmoths – in particular spatial information processing and their visual flower inspection behaviour. We combine intracellular electrophysiology, quantitative behavioural experiments and neuroanatomical methods (immunohistochemistry, block-face SEM) to answer these questions.

The suggested starting date is November 2019 (negotiable). Our department values an international work environment and we welcome international applicants.

Project description: Establishing the first insect model for visually guided reaching.

We do it hundreds of times a day, when pressing a button, or grabbing a cup of tea: we see objects and reach for them. Yet, this ability is rare among insects. This project proposes to establish the first insect model for the study of visually guided reaching using the hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*. Within this project, the research assistant will study how these insects use patterns on flower faces to visually guide their proboscis to the nectary. This will be achieved using established behavioural paradigms, which we film in high-speed and analyse using deep neural networks for marker-free tracking. Electrophysiological recordings can be established as part of this project as well.



Qualifications of the applicant

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with a degree (min. Bachelor) in Biology, Neuroscience, Engineering or related subjects. A strong interest in insect vision and neuroethology, an excellent track-record and experience with any of our methods, as well as programming (Matlab) would be desirable.

Type of employment

Payscale according to TV-L (65%) equivalent to PhD salary for one year. The University of Würzburg aims at increasing the proportion of female employees. Disabled applicants will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualification.

Contact for applications

Please send applications as a single pdf file including a cover letter, CV, and the name of two references to Anna Stöckl: anna.stoeckl@uni-wuerzburg.de.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

The application deadline is October 8th, 2019.

