

The Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena is an internationally renowned research institution with currently about 230 employees and is dedicated to basic research in the field of Earth system sciences with a focus on climate and ecosystems. We are looking for the
01.11.2020

Postdoc in Soil Biogeochemistry (m/f/d)

(Full time, limited in time 31.10.2023)

Background and position description:

The department of Biogeochemical Integration at the MPI for Biogeochemistry conducts research to better understand the manifold interactions between terrestrial biogeochemistry and climate. One focus is on the dynamics of soil organic matter. To further advance the integration of observations and modelling, and in particular, our understanding of interdependencies between microbial activity and soil carbon storage, we are now looking for a Postdoctoral researcher (m/f/d) in Soil Biogeochemistry.

Soil organic matter (SOM) dynamics is one key control of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. Soil microorganisms are the main drivers of SOM decomposition, with their growth, turnover and enzyme production being limited by resource accessibility and the abiotic soil environment. Analyses of large scale (regional to global) spatial patterns of key soil and microbial characteristics can help elucidate their interdependencies and provide the basis for the evaluation of microbial explicit soil carbon models.

Therefore, we are looking for a postdoctoral researcher with a strong interest in understanding the interactions between microbial activity and soil carbon storage and turnover.

Tasks:

- identification of indicators of soil microbial activity relevant for SOM storage and turnover
- data collection, from existing databases, literature, and possibly newly collected or archived soil samples
- meta-analyses of obtained data, including the option of applying them for comparing and testing of different formulations of soil models that we develop in-house

Qualifications:

We invite applications of highly motivated scientists with a background in soil carbon and microbial activity. You should have a PhD in soil biogeochemistry or a related discipline, e.g. environmental or soil sciences, geo-ecology, or physical geography. General interest and experience with soil sampling, data collection, database management and advanced statistics is useful and desired.

Our Offer:

The Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena offers an exceptional dynamic, international and multidisciplinary working. The successful candidate will join the creative team of the Soil Biogeochemistry group, where we are encompassing experimental and theoretical work on the persistence and sensitivity of organic carbon in soils, and interactions between biogeochemical cycles of carbon, nutrients and water at all spatial scales. The appointment will be for 3 years and can start from November 2020 or upon mutual agreement. Salary is according to the regulations of the TVöD.

The city of Jena is not only famous for its high-tech industry, internationally renowned research institutions and a modern university, but also for its beautiful natural setting in the Saale valley with its steep limestone slopes. The climate is mild, and a large variety of plants grow in the close surroundings, including wine grapes and wild orchids. The city of Jena has a large active student scene supporting a diverse cultural life.

The conditions of employment, including upgrades and duration follow the rules of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences and those of the German civil service.

The Max Planck Society strives for equality between women and men and for diversity. In addition, the Max Planck Society wants to increase the proportion of women in those areas in which they are underrepresented. Women are therefore expressly encouraged to apply. We welcome applications from all areas.

The Max Planck Society has set itself the goal of employing more severely disabled people. Applications from severely disabled persons are expressly welcome.

Your Application:

Please submit it before August 30 2020, but the screening of applications will continue until the position is filled. Please send your application including a letter of interest, CV, and the names and contact information of one or two references to Dr. Marion Schrumpf either via email to mschrumpf@bgc-jena.mpg.de, or directly to the institute's address:

Max-Planck-Institut für Biogeochemie
Dr. Marion Schrumpf
Hans-Knöll-Straße 10
07745 Jena

For further information please contact: Dr. Marion Schrumpf (mschrumpf@bgc-jena.mpg.de)

We are looking forward to your application!