



SPP 2361
On the Way to the
Fluvial Anthroposphere



The research group "Biodiversity Research and Systematic Botany" (Prof. Dr. Anja Linstädter) at the University of Potsdam invites applications for the following position:

Academic staff member (PhD student; f/m/) for Plant Ecology (EG 13 TV-L)

65% of the regular weekly working time for a limited period of three years.

The position is embedded in the research project **"The Lower Havel River and Greater Donaumoos Regions: 'Failed' or 'successful' reclamation of floodplains and peatlands? – A comparative analysis"** in the context of the DFG [Priority Programme 2361 "On the Way to the Fluvial Anthroposphere"](#). The floodplains and wetlands in Central Europe are subject to massive human influences and these have already led to significant ecological changes in the pre-industrial era. The main goal of the doctoral project is to reconstruct the effects of human interventions on vegetation dynamics, in particular on the functional composition and diversity of vegetation in the past centuries. To this end, existing and new vegetation data will be analysed in an interdisciplinary and international team, also contributing to the novel research field of functional paleoecology.

Your tasks:

- Use of advanced concepts and methods of functional plant ecology
- Research stays and field data collection (vegetation resurveys)
- Compilation of plant functional traits from trait databases
- Integration of data from vegetation resurveys, pollen records and ancient DNA, with a focus on changes in functional composition and diversity
- Contribution to the interdisciplinary synthesis of results

Your profile:

- Excellent MSc degree in plant ecology or a related field
- Good ability to think conceptually
- Profound knowledge in biodiversity research
- Very good knowledge in biostatistics and modern statistical methods
- Good plant species knowledge
- Committed and team-oriented
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English; German skills are an advantage
- Willingness to travel in Germany for extended periods of time
- Driving licence
- Fieldwork experience in Central European floodplains and/or peatlands is desirable

Our offer:

- A stimulating work environment where you are encouraged to explore new scientific directions
- A vibrant scientific exchange with national and international researchers
- Participation in an innovative, interdisciplinary research environment
- Various continuing education opportunities at the University of Potsdam
- A job at one of the most beautiful university locations in Germany

The position is available from May 1st, 2026.

Interviews will be held on January 22nd, 2026.

The University of Potsdam aims to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore invites qualified female applicants to apply. The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its members and pursues the goals of equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. In the case of equal suitability, women within the meaning of Section 7 (4) BbgHG (Brandenburg Higher Education Act) and people with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration. Applications from abroad and from persons with a migration background are expressly welcome.

Applicants should send their application (as one PDF file containing motivation letter, CV, copies of all academic certificates including school leaving exam, contact data of at least two referees), **by January 15th 2026 at the latest by e-mail** to Ms. Véronique Labis: biodiversity@uni-potsdam.de with the subject line "Academic staff member for plant ecology".