

Doctoral position (Dr. rer. nat., PhD), DFG, 65%

Institutions: Bavarian State Collection of Zoology – SNSB, Arthropoda varia workgroup, Munich; Faculty of Biology, Zoology, Zoomorphology of Animals, Munich; Yunnan Key Laboratory for Palaeobiology, Yunnan University, Kunming, China

Besetzungsdatum: 1. Mai 2019

Ende der Bewerbungsfrist: 15. März 2019

Doctoral position

Virtuelle Paläontologie der Chengjiang-Arthropoden – virtual palaeontology of Chengjiang arthropods

We are seeking a PhD student to take part in the investigation of early arthropod fossils from the early Cambrian Chengjiang Lagerstätte using various imaging techniques. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in the framework of a joint Sino-German NSFC-DFG research project.

Around 250 fossil species have been reported from the Chengjiang Lagerstätte. Most of them are exceptionally well preserved arthropods. This precious fossil material provides a unique window to understand the origin and early evolution of this group of animals. The phylogenetic positions of many Chengjiang species, however, are under debate. The main reason is that the morphologies of those early representatives have not been examined in greater detail using various visualisation techniques. In our joint Sino-German research project, advanced imaging techniques such as micro-CT, fluorescence microscopy and low-vacuum scanning electron microscopy will be applied to extract the most information and to visualise the animals' morphologies in a 3D manner. This project will bring together arthropod specialists from both countries in a joint research effort.

The prospective PhD student should be a dedicated “image-maker”, preferably with experience in various imaging techniques and computerized image analyses, volume exploration and 3D-reconstruction using programs like VG Studio, Drishti, OsiriX, Blender, Amira and alike. The applicant does not necessarily need to have experience with all the imaging methods but is expected to gain expertise early in the course of the project. The results of the project are expected to be presented regularly at national and international conferences by the prospective PhD student as well as published in peer-reviewed journals.

The successful candidate will be based in the work group "Arthropoda varia" at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, but will also use the facilities of the Zoomorphology workgroup at the LMU Biocenter Martinsried. For material reasons, the successful candidate will be required to regularly visit the collaborators in Yunnan Key Laboratory for Palaeobiology, Yunnan University, Kunming, China.

We offer: DFG-funded PhD position (65%) for 36 months; interdisciplinary research project and working environment; modern imaging equipment (macro- and microscopic).

We expect: MSc (or equivalent) in Zoology/Biology or Palaeobiology; good English communication skills (oral and written); ability to work in teams; high motivation; keen interest in zoological evolutionary questions and life of the past.

The position is limited to 36 months with a presumed starting date of May 01, 2019.

Applications of women are strongly encouraged. Severely challenged persons will be given preference in case of otherwise equal qualifications.

Please send your application to **melzer@snsb.de** before March 15, 2019. The application should include CV, transcript of records, letter of motivation and the names and contact details of potential referees.

For further information contact:

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<http://www.zoology.bio.lmu.de/people/chaug/index.html>