

# 5 year post-doc: Insect behaviour

## Freie Universität Berlin

The Animal Cognitive Ecology laboratory ([ACElab](#)) is moving to the Freie Universität Berlin, and we are looking for an experienced post-doctoral researcher to broaden the horizons of our research group.

The Animal Cognitive Ecology laboratory, headed by Prof. Tomer J. Czaczkes, studies the behaviour, cognition, and ecology of insects – especially social insects, and especially ants. We are currently moving towards applied topics in three main areas of research:

- Insect cognition and welfare
- Invasive species management (especially invasive ants)
- The effect of cognition on pollinator biology and pollinator decline

We have several strategic research projects planned related to the topics above, and the successful applicant will be expected to work on at least one of these. However, we also offer extensive freedom for the applicant to develop their own research agenda, which is strongly encouraged and will be supported. Especially sought are researchers who can broaden the horizons of the research group either technically or conceptually.

We offer:

- A 5-year post-doc (TVL-13, 100%) position
- The freedom to pursue your own research interests, as long as they fit the research directions of the group
- Extensive laboratory space, greenhouse space, climate chambers, and access to experimental field plots if needed
- Support in purchasing equipment required for research projects
- The opportunity to work towards a Habilitation

Responsibilities:

- Setting an independent research agenda in line with the research agenda of the research group
- Contribute to the practical and organizational needs of the research group in both research and teaching.
- Collaboration with the head of the group, Prof. Tomer J. Czaczkes
- Writing an independent third-party funding application
- Involvement in teaching, where the focus will be on practical courses and laboratories. There is a teaching obligation of 4 SWS.

Requirements:

- A completed PhD in Biology, Zoology, Comparative Psychology, or a related subject

Desirable characteristics:

Technical skills (not all are required!):

- Advanced data management and statistical analysis
- Machine vision and video tracking
- Programming skills, especially Python and R

Other skills and experience:

- Good knowledge of German for teaching
- Teaching experience, especially in ecology and behaviour practical courses
- Supervision of students
- Complex project organization
- Post-doctoral experience

Preferred research interests and experience:

- Behaviour of (social) insects
- Animal cognition
- Animal welfare
- Applied entomology
- Insect ecology

Please note that we do not expect any candidate to have all the skills and experience listed.

For more information about the laboratory see the ACElab website:

<https://www.animal-economics.com/>

To apply, please collate the following documents as a single PDF:

- A curriculum vitae
- Top 5 publications
- A personal statement, including research plan or research interests (1 page max)
- Contact details for at least one supervisor or colleague, and one supervised student, willing to provide a letter of support.

Please name the PDF \*Lastname\*\_Application\_Arthropoden.pdf, replacing \*Lastname\* with your last name.

Send the application to [dekanatssekretariat@bcp.fu-berlin.de](mailto:dekanatssekretariat@bcp.fu-berlin.de) with the subject line “WMQ Postdoc Arthropoden”

Please do not include a picture of yourself on the application.

The application deadline is 28.04.2025, but will be extended by one month to 28.05.2025.

For the official advertisement (in German), see

[https://www.fu-berlin.de/universitaet/beruf-karriere/jobs/wiss/21\\_fb-biologie-chemie-pharmazie/BC-WMQ-Postdoc-Arthropoden.html](https://www.fu-berlin.de/universitaet/beruf-karriere/jobs/wiss/21_fb-biologie-chemie-pharmazie/BC-WMQ-Postdoc-Arthropoden.html)

A machine-translated English version of the official advertisement can be found below:

**Research Associate (Postdoc) (m/f/d) Full-time employment limited up to 5 years Pay grade 13 TV-L FU Identifier: WMQ Postdoc Arthropods**

Application deadline: 28.04.2025 (will be extended to 28.05.2025)

As part of our research, we study insect behavior and cognition, learning, cognition and ecology. Our area of interest is broad and includes cognition, communication, invasive and pest species management, information use and collective decision making, usually, but not always, focusing on feeding behavior.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in research and teaching in the field of applied zoology and ecology of animals.
- Responsibilities include setting an independent research agenda related to arthropod behavior, cognition and welfare.
- Contribute to the practical and organizational needs of the research group in both research and teaching.
- Collaboration with the head of the group, Prof. Tomer J. Czaczkes, is desired and expected. The candidate may pursue his/her own research agenda, but may be asked to collaborate on projects developed by the group leader. Alignment of research interests is encouraged.
- Involvement in teaching, where the focus will be on practical courses and laboratories. There is a teaching obligation.
- The activity serves the own scientific qualification (habilitation).

Recruitment requirements:

- Completed scient. University degree (Master, Magister, Diplom or comparable) in biology or psychology (or a related subject)
- Completed doctorate in biology or zoology or comparative psychology (or a related subject)

Desirable:

Technical skills

- Advanced data management and statistical analysis
- Machine vision and video tracking
- Programming skills, especially Python and R

#### Other skills and experience

- Good knowledge of German
- Teaching experience, especially in ecology internships
- Supervision of students
- Complex project organization

#### Preferred research interests and experience

- (Social) behavior of insects
- Animal cognition
- Animal welfare / animal protection
- Applied entomology
- Insect ecology

#### Further information

Applications should be sent electronically by e-mail to Prof. Dr. Tomer Czaczkes with informative documents, stating "WMQ Postdoc Arthropods" as the email subject in PDF format (preferably as one document): [dekanatssekretariat@bcp.fu-berlin.de](mailto:dekanatssekretariat@bcp.fu-berlin.de) or by post to

Free University of Berlin

Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy

Administration

Prof. Dr. Tomer Czaczkes / Dean's Office

Arnimallee 22

14195 Berlin

By submitting an online application, you as an applicant give your consent for your data to be processed and stored electronically.

We would like to point out that if you send your application electronically without protection, Freie Universität Berlin cannot guarantee the security of the personal data transmitted.