

DRINGEND STUDENT/IN GESUCHT!!! PROJEKTBEGINN IM APRIL 2019!!!

Looking for a motivated Diploma student to work in a very friendly team on the research project:

CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD AVAILABILITY DURING EARLY-LIFE ON SUBSEQUENT REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS IN GARDEN DORMICE

Dr. Sylvain Giroud (Senior Researcher)

E-mail: sylvain.giroud@vetmeduni.ac.at

Tel: 01 250 777 135

Department of Integrative Biology and Evolution

Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology

University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna



Project outlines:

Early-life conditions greatly impact on life-history traits of individuals at adulthood. In particular, social environment and energy availability during early-life can largely shape subsequent performances and responses of sub-adult and adult individuals. Youngs developing and growing in an environment with social interactions, such as when saving energy through social thermoregulation or ‘huddling’, show higher pro-social abilities and greater reproductive performances later in life. Energy availability is also an important signal during early life, and can impact on subsequent reproductive decisions. For instance, individuals that develop in an environment with low and unpredictable food availability can dampen their future reproductive investment, possibly to the advantage of their somatic maintenance.

Therefore, this study aims to:

- Determine the reproductive success and investment of sub-adult garden dormice that were housed either singly or together in groups, and provided with ad-libitum or restricted access to food during early life.
- Determine the impact of the reproductive decisions on somatic maintenance, assessed through changes of telomere lengths.

Experimental schedule: April to September 2019

The applicant should have a good background in animal biology/physiology and the willingness to learn new techniques. Experience with animal handling is required.

If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible by sending a CV via E-mail.