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The Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology conducts basic research to elucidate the role of chemicals in ecological interactions between plants, insects, fungi, and bacteria. Research is highly interdisciplinary, combining ecological, chemical, biochemical, and molecular approaches in laboratory and field investigations. **The department of Biochemistry** invites talented and highly motivated candidates to apply for a full-time

Postdoctoral position

starting as soon as possible. The position will last for two years initially, with the option for a one-year extension.

Project description: Benzoxazinoids (BXDs) are key defensive metabolites in grasses and several studies have investigated their diversity, biosynthesis and insecticidal activity. As part of an international collaboration, we are studying the role of BXDs in crop plants as well as their detoxification in herbivore insects. The successful Postdoctoral candidate will investigate molecular mechanisms of herbivore-induced BXD activation in maize. In particular s/he will identify and characterize proteins which catalyze and mediate these processes in the wounded plant. This work includes biochemical, molecular and genetic approaches and the application of modern analytical techniques (LC-MS, GC-MS/MS).

Requirements: Postdoctoral candidates should have a PhD in life sciences and some initial publications in the field of plant biochemistry or plant physiology. Experiences and good experimental skills in molecular biology and genetics as well as knowledge about plant secondary metabolism are an advantage.

We offer: The successful candidate will be hosted in the research group of Dr. Tobias Köllner which is embedded in the Department of Biochemistry (director: Prof. Jonathan Gershenzon). The laboratory is well equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructures and has direct access to all core facilities of the institute. The candidate will have the opportunity to visit our partner labs in Switzerland.

Salary is paid according to German TVöD. The Max Planck Society is committed to increase the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, the MPG seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages woman to apply.

The deadline for applications is **October 31, 2015**.

Please send your application as a single PDF document including a detailed CV, list of publications, two references, letter of motivation and research interests via e-mail to Dr. Tobias G. Köllner: koellner@ice.mpg.de

