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PhD in evolutionary genomics at University of Graz, Austria

Title: The transcriptional landscape of cichlid jaw evolution

A three-year PhD position funded by the Austrian Science Foundation (FWF) is available in the Sturmbauer lab (<https://homepage.uni-graz.at/en/christian.sturmbauer/current-research/>) in the city of Graz in Austria. The project is focusing on cichlid fishes from the Lakes in East Africa that comprise the most species-rich group of vertebrates. Their unparalleled diversity makes them an excellent model for asking questions concerning speciation and adaptive evolution. One of the factors driving their adaptive radiation is hypothesised to be the evolution of diverse jaws. This exciting project aims to understand the transcriptome-wide variation underlying cichlid jaws adapted to different trophic niches using whole-transcriptome sequencing (RNA-seq).

We seek a highly-motivated, organised individual who can work independently as well as drive collaborative projects. Passion for science and research is a must and good English language skills are very important. The PhD will require molecular laboratory work and bioinformatics analysis as well as fish husbandry and dissections. Previous knowledge/experience with the aforementioned skills is desirable. Willingness to learn how to use linux based bioinformatics tools is essential. The project will also involve field trips to the lakes in East Africa for sampling.

The available funding covers a FWF-standard 3-year PhD salary with health insurance and social security benefits. Graz is a beautiful, historical city situated just south-east of the Austrian Alps with opportunities for hiking in summer and skiing in winter, as well as convenient access to the rest of central and southern Europe.

Starting date: ~ 1st of June 2017

For more information email Prof. Christian Sturmbauer (christian.sturmbauer@uni-graz.at). Applications must include a CV with email addresses of two referees and a brief description of background and research interests.