Water has been identified as the major environmental issue of the 21st century. Many parts of the world will experience increasing fresh water shortage, while other parts will have a higher incidence of flooding. Poor water quality is a threat for human society as well as for natural ecosystems. The research focus of the Institute for Water and Wetland Research (IWWR) is the natural environment, in particular aquatic ecosystems and wetlands. Many of these environments have been substantially altered by human impact. The changes have resulted in stress responses of all living biota and impose major challenges to individuals, populations and the ecosystem as a whole. The IWWR studies the mechanisms of adaptation to these changes of microorganisms, plants and animals at the level of the molecule, the cell, the organism and the ecosystem. The light coupling of fundamental scientific research to application, distinguishes the IWWR from other national and international institutes on water research. The novel applications for current water problems are developed from innovative fundamental insights in molecular, physiological and ecological processes.

Research at the IWWR is carried out by complementary and closely interacting research groups that study the mechanisms cells, organisms and ecosystems use to adapt to environmental change.

**Job description**

As an assistant professor you will be responsible for establishing a strong experimental research programme in animal ecology, based on fundamental ecological concepts. Given the current expertise in the Animal Ecology and Ecophysiology group and the Institute for Water and Wetland Research (IWWR), an emphasis on aquatic ecosystems and their fauna would strengthen the opportunities for a coherent programme and cooperation. As the study programme in animal ecology is quite popular among students, you are expected to contribute actively and innovatively to the animal ecology and animal ecophysiology components of the undergraduate programme of the Biology curriculum. You are also expected to establish connections with the Dutch NGOs involved in applied animal ecology, organized in Natuurplaza, in the form of joint projects, joint programmes for PhD students and supervision of Master’s students.

**Expected qualifications of the assistant professor in Animal Ecology**

- a good knowledge of the theoretical aspects of animal ecology
- knowledge of and experience with life history strategies
- completed a PhD thesis in a relevant field
- leadership qualities and up-to-date knowledge of and a vision on the theories and methodologies in animal ecology, preferably in relation to aquatic or semi-aquatic environments
- some years of post-doctoral experience, preferably abroad
- teaching experience at various levels
- experience with supervising students
- an excellent publication and citation record
- the ability to acquire external funding
- excellent communication skills
- have the ability to work in a team.

**Conditions of employment**

The monthly salary will be between €3,195 and €4,374 on a full-time basis, depending on qualifications and experience. Duration of the contract: Initially for 2 periods of 3 years.

**Additional conditions of employment**

A permanent position will be offered when your performance is evaluated positively. The evaluation will be based on a set of objective criteria.

**Other Information**

Applications should include a cover letter, research statement, teaching statement, curriculum vitae, list of publications and the names of at least two references.

**Additional Information**

Prof. dr. Henk Siepel, E-mail: H.Siepel@science.ru.nl

**Application**

You can apply for the job (mention the vacancy number 62.65.11) **before 15 August 2011** by sending your application preferably by email to:

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