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Mission of Molecular Interaction Ecology

The mission of Molecular Interaction Ecology (MIE) is to unravel the molecular and chemical mechanisms governing interactions between plants and their biotic and abiotic environment. To this aim, we use an integrated approach in which we combine metabolomics and transcriptomics analyses with measures of plant and insect performance. We generate data by conducting manipulative greenhouse experiments as well as by sampling experimental biodiversity fields and natural plant communities. Our ultimate goal is to understand the role of plant-based mechanisms in the establishment of aboveground and belowground biodiversity in natural communities. The knowledge we generate also contributes to the development of integrated pest management strategies.

BSc and MSc students

In our research group, we warmly welcome BSc and MSc students from FSU Jena. We offer thesis projects that match with our current [research projects](#) on the chemical and molecular ecology of plant-herbivore-microbe interactions. Depending on your scientific interests, the period of your thesis project and your learning goals, the project could be more lab or field oriented. Bioinformatic projects are also possible; in that case, we will ask one of our colleagues of the [Bioinformatics unit](#) at iDiv to co-supervise you.

Got interested? Please directly contact the PhD student or postdoctoral researcher on your project of interest by e-mail or telephone, or mail a short statement of interest and your CV to [Ms Susann Goerth](#).

