

The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) GmbH (www.leibniz-zmt.de) is an independent research and teaching institute that provides scientific knowledge for the protection and sustainable use of tropical coastal ecosystems. To this end, we work in an inter- and transdisciplinary manner with our partners in the tropics. The ZMT is a member of the Leibniz Association.

Interpreting coral reef microbialites is challenging. However, they have a high potential as environmental archives. This project within the framework of IODP 389 (Hawaiian Drowned Reefs) focuses on microbialites formed during MIS 7-1 and the information they capture on sediment influx, nutrient levels, alkalinity, photic regime, water energy and other parameters by studying their composition, morphology, and structure. It contributes to the overall goal of IODP 389 to unravel the ecosystemic reaction of coral reefs to sea-level and climate variations.

The working group Geoecology and Carbonate Sedimentology is seeking (subject to release of funds) to fill an opening for a postdoctoral researcher within the frame of a DFG project.

Postdoctoral researcher (gn)

(Reference: 25-mahalo-PD)

Your tasks:

- Study of microbialites recovered during IODP Expedition 389 (Hawaiian Drowned Reefs) with respect to the fossil content as well as petrography, geochemistry, mineralogy, sedimentology with special focus on microbial remains with light microscopy and SEM, as well as spatially resolved element and organic content methods, and other approaches.
- Collaboration with IODP 389 partners and collaboration partners at Leibniz-ISAS and University of Graz for the analysis of microbialites. Supervision of students within the scope of the project. Preparation of publications within this context.

Requirements:

- MSc in geosciences, geobiology, environmental microbiology or related
- Doctoral degree (or close to defense) in carbonate sedimentology, geobiology, or related
- Experience in the study of microbialites is favorable
- Experience in the study of reef systems is favorable
- Interdisciplinary and international experience are favorable
- English language in spoken and written is mandatory
- Strong background in carbonate sedimentology and/or the formation of microbialites
- Background in imaging technologies (e.g., LM, SEM)
- Background in Pleistocene reef systems is favorable
- Openness, fairness, team worker
- Publication experience

Further information:

For questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Hildegard Westphal, email: hildegard.westphal@leibniz-zmt.de

Details of position:

Remuneration is based on Pay Group 13 of the Collective Agreement for the Public Service of the Federal States (TV-L). The gross monthly salary is determined in accordance with the provisions of the TV-L and currently ranges from 5.366,89 EUR to 6.764.69 EUR employees gross salary per month, depending on the candidate's recognized relevant professional experience. The gross salary listed here applies to a full-time position. For part-time employment, this amount should be adjusted proportionally. Further details regarding remuneration are governed by the TV-L and the TV-L Pay Scale Regulations (Entgeltordnung zum TV-L).

The position is available for full-time employment starting as soon as possible for 24 months. The fixed term is for academic qualification according to § 2 (1) WissZeitVG (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz). Accordingly, only applicants who still have the relevant qualification periods according to § 2 (1) WissZeitVG can be considered.

ZMT is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants with a migration background are welcome. Persons with severe disabilities are given special consideration if they have the same professional and personal qualifications. The ZMT values its diverse workforce and pursues the goal of providing equal opportunity, which incorporates gender neutrality (gn). We will be happy to accept your documents without a photo.

We offer:

- A challenging and varied job in an international, dynamic and interdisciplinary research environment
- A motivated and committed team from different countries and cultures
- An open and cooperative working atmosphere
- Opportunities for personal and professional development
- Interesting, varied and challenging tasks and family-friendly working conditions
- Company pension plan (VBL)
- Company health promotion and the opportunity to participate in company fitness with EGYM Wellpass

Submission of application:

Please submit your complete application documents (cover letter, resume, references, job references, certificates and attestations), a reference letter and a letter of motivation **by 20.08.2026 as a single pdf file** with the reference number "25-mahalo-PD" to Ms. Wiebke Harms-Krusemeyer, email: bewerbung@leibniz-zmt.de.

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