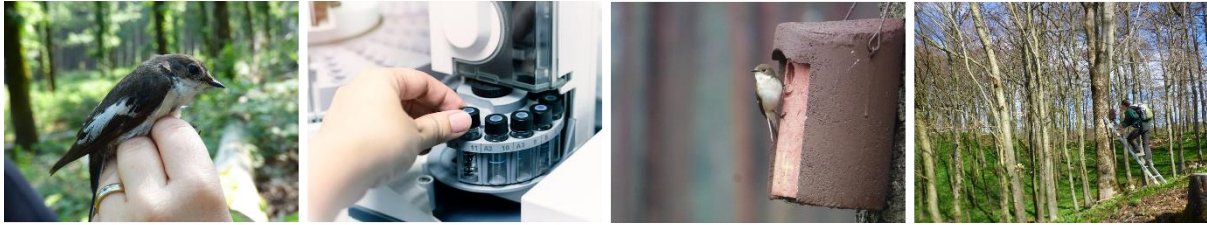


# What's in the smell of flycatchers?



## Background

**Birds have a good sense of smell and they may use it to communicate.** A major source of the smell of birds is **preen oil** (a waxy substance secreted by the uropygial gland). By describing the chemical composition of preen oil, we can investigate what information is encoded in bird odour, and question whether **bird odour** could be used for **intra-specific communication** or other functions.

## Project

We study a wild population of **pied flycatchers**. Hundreds of preen oil samples have already been collected and analysed. You could continue this study and **find out what's in the smell of pied flycatchers!**

## What would you do?

- Analyse chemical data with R and PRIMER
- Participate in writing a scientific article about the results you will find
- If you want: participate in fieldwork (monitoring of breeding flycatchers in the Teutoburg forest)
- If you want: participate in labwork (chemical analysis with GC-MS)

## Where and when?

- In the very active and international Behavioural Ecology group at Bielefeld University in Germany. More information about our group on our webpage [https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/arbeitsgruppen/behav\\_eco/](https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/arbeitsgruppen/behav_eco/) or on Twitter <https://twitter.com/BehavEcoBIE>

- 4 to 7 months between January and July 2023 (dates are flexible).

## With whom?

Marc Gilles, Barbara Caspers & Tim Schmoll

## Profile

- Master student
- Interested in animal behaviour, evolution, ecology or biochemistry
- Fluent in English
- With some experience with R

## Salary

This internship is unfortunately not paid.