The focus of Naturalis is biodiversity. Naturalis curates a collection of 37 million specimens; this is one of the world's largest natural history collections. We present the history of our planet and the diversity of life on Earth with permanent and temporary exhibitions, educational programmes and websites. Our research and education are maintained at a high academic level.

Naturalis is appealing to a wide audience, attracting over 250,000 visitors and 5 million hits to its website annually. Co-operation with international institutions, including three renowned Dutch universities, and the outstanding collections, are all factors that attract hundreds of visiting scientists every year.

Expectations and ambitions for the next few years are high. Naturalis will invest significantly in infrastructure for collections and research, including new buildings. In short, we are a developing, world-class institution, and present this exciting opportunity for you to help us achieve our ambitions and meet our challenges.

Naturalis has a position for a:

**Postdoctoral researcher**

We seek a postdoctoral fellow for a 12-month project on the genome evolution of mycoheterotrophic plants. The project will employ next-generation sequencing techniques for *de novo* genome and transcriptome assembly of achlorophyllous mycoheterotrophic flowering plants. There will be a strong focus on genome assembly and genome comparison to detect common genetic patterns in the evolution of mycoheterotrophy.

**General requirements and skills**

- The candidate must have completed a doctoral degree in biology, and experience with evolutionary biology and genetics;
- Demonstrated knowledge of *de novo* genome and transcriptome assembly with relevant software packages;
- Demonstrated expertise in relevant molecular systematic techniques in the lab;
- Demonstrated ability to efficiently organize and conduct a research project including timely reporting on research milestones and outcomes, and maintaining a research budget;
- Demonstrated ability and commitment to publish the results of scientific research in high-impact scientific media; evidence of high level written, oral and interpersonal communication skills to a diverse audience;
- Ability to work effectively as a member of a team, to interact and communicate effectively.

**We offer**

A contract (36 hours per week) for a period of one year. A salary of circa € 44.000 gross per year. The candidate will also be affiliated with Leiden University. Please feel free to contact Dr. Vincent Merckx with questions about the position, Vincent.Merckx@naturalis.nl.