



# Master thesis 2018/2019

## *The effect of dead wood on the colonization pattern of periphyton*



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### Background

The study will be carried out at the Mulde River in the federal states Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. The Mulde River is a tributary to the Elb River and several retention basins act as sediment traps. The biggest one is the Mulde River reservoir, which is up-stream the project area and therefore heavily influencing discharge and sediment transport. This leads to riverbed incision in the river and a disconnection of the floodplain areas. The installation of dead wood should mitigate the progressive incision, enhance sediment accumulation next to the dead wood and therefore also the establishment of periphyton communities.

### Main aim

To compare periphyton communities growing next to dead wood with communities on gravel banks in terms of composition, photosynthesis and enzyme activity



### We offer

- Highly relevant and applied topic
- Collaboration in a WWF-Germany project (<http://wilde-mulde.de/>)
- Multidisciplinary and internationality (working together with colleagues from the UFZ Leipzig and Magdeburg)

### Requirements:

- Interest for limnochemistry and algal ecology
- Interdisciplinary working skills
- Communication skills

**Start:** Autumn 2018

**Location:** Vienna and Lunz, field work in Dessau/Germany

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