COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The dean of the Faculty of Biology, with the consent of the Rector of the University of Warsaw, announces a competition for the position of Assistant professor[1] in the project "Long transoceanic dispersals or land bridges? Unravelling biogeographic patterns and the evolutionary success of the lizard superfamily Lacertoidea".

About the programme/project/undertaking:

Title of project	*Long transoceanic dispersals or land bridges? Unravelling biogeographic patterns and the evolutionary success of the lizard superfamily Lacertoidea*	
Type of project	OPUS 30	
Funding institution	National Science Centre	
Duration of project	48 months.	
Head of project	Dr Mateusz Tałanda	
Description of project	Lacertoidea are one of the major groups of modern squamates occupying various habitats across most of the continents. Their members are often a model organisms in studies on ecological niches, limb reduction, Dollo's law, long transoceanic dispersals, and extinction selectivity. Despite of that, they are underrepresented in many phylogenetic studies and little is known about their Mesozoic evolution. This hampers not only our understanding of origins of its modern groups like teiids, amphisbaenians, and lacertids but also their sister group – Toxicofera (snakes, iguanians, anguimorphs). Here we will aim to fill this gap by gathering extensive 3D skeletal data from various modern representatives of the clade through computed tomography. Moreover, we will scan also Cretaceous lizards with potential affinities to the group. Obtained diversity will be used to build a new phylogenetic framework that will allow testing the affinities of Cretaceous lizards with Lacertoidea, as well as performing ancestral state reconstructions to the root of the group and to its split with Toxicofera. The results will help solve phylogenetic conflicts between molecular and morphological data, revise current biogeographic hypotheses about past dispersal events, evaluate role of extinctions in shaping current diversity, and bring paleontological context (history) for ecomorphological and evo-devo studies. The postdoctoral researcher will focus on: · Visits in collections of other institutions. · Participation in team and lab organisation. · Preparing photographs and 3D models of bones of studied fossils and extant lizards. · Phylogenetic and biogeographic analyses. · Publication process and presenting results at conferences.	

Position details:

Position title	Assistant Professor
Organisational unit	Faculty of Biology
Employment group	Research

[1] The nouns used in the announcement apply to people of all genders.

Position profile[2]	R2
Academic discipline[3]	Biological sciences
Number of positions	1
Form of employment and length of working time (proportionally to full-time employment)	Full-time employment contract
Expected date of commencement of work and employment period	Employment starting from February 2027, for 12 months which will be extended for an additional 24 months pending positive evaluation.
Remuneration	Basic remuneration PLN 11 000 – 11 300 gross/month plus the additional annual remuneration, allowance for years of service. More information: *link*
Other working conditions	– Workplace: *Institute of Evolutionary Biology* – Career opportunities: More information: *link*
Basic responsibilities and obligations	– Conducting scientific research in biological sciences and publishing findings in international scientific journals. – Securing research funding. – Fulfilling other academic teacher responsibilities as required by employment at the University of Warsaw. – Co-supervision of graduate students involved in research work in the project. – Assisting in organizational duties of the research group and/or the faculty. *More information:* Scope of responsibilities of the academic teacher
Conditions for entering the competition[4]	– Fulfill the requirements set out in Article 113 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1571, consolidated text) – Only individuals who obtained their doctoral degree in biological sciences or a related field within 7 years prior to the start of employment are eligible to apply. – Have significant scientific achievements documented by well-cited publications in renowned international journals, invitations to deliver lectures or seminars, etc. – Have international experience, e.g.: participation in international conferences, engagement in international research projects, international collaborations documented by joint publications. – Submit a research plan outlining personal scientific development. – High proficiency in written and spoken English. – Research competencies in the field of: o first-hand experience with phylogenetic analyses, o processing of 3D anatomical data, o herpetology with particular emphasis on osteology of modern and extinct reptiles, o first-hand experience handling and analysing fossil and extant specimens.
In addition, we expect[5]	– Experience in individual work with students (e.g., supervising theses) and science popularization activities. – Experience in securing research funding.

[2] Complete only in the case of competition for the position in the research employment group or the research and teaching employment group.
[3] Complete only in the case of competition for the position in the research employment group or the research and teaching employment group.
[4] Required by the Act, the Law on Higher Education and Science, the Statute of the University of Warsaw, as well as necessary for the position.
[5] Additional conditions to be met; however, not meeting them will not lead to a negative formal assessment.

	– Good organizational skills, a proactive attitude, and the ability to solve problems independently. – Experience in preparing scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals, including as first author and/or corresponding author, *commensurate with career stage*. *If hired, we expect the University of Warsaw to be the primary workplace for the successful candidate.*
Criteria for the assessment of candidates in a competition	– Quality of the publication record. – Project-relevant skills documented by the publication record, including experience with segmentation of CT-scans as well as anatomy of lepidosaurs (preferably Lacertoidea) and expertise in phylogenetic analyses.
Position not related[6] to activities covered by the protection of minors.	

Competition rules:

Announcement reference number	**WB-KG-14/2026**
Keywords	Amphisbaenia, Lacertidae, Teiidae, Gymnophthalmidae, phylogeny, Cretaceous
Deadline for submitting applications[7]	8th November 2026
Method of submitting an application	Send applications via email to m.talanda@uw.edu.pl and the Faculty Dean's Office: dziekanat.biol@uw.edu.pl. Candidates will receive an email confirmation of document submission. If no confirmation is received, please contact the project leader.
Required documents	– Personal questionnaire – available on the Faculty of Biology UW website. – Motivation letter including description of scientific interests and research activity plan. *Ensure the completeness of your application and submit it by the deadline. Failure to meet these requirements will result in rejection on formal grounds.* Please, ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the deadline indicated!
The competition is the first stage of the recruitment process, please read the Policy of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment at the University of Warsaw *link*	
Stages of competiton	*The competition consists of the following stages:* – *Stage I - formal evaluation of documents,* – *Stage II - substantive evaluation on the basis of submitted documents,* – *Stage III - interview with selected candidates, during which the candidate will be required to give a short presentation on their previous achievements and career plans, followed by a Q&A session with members of the selection committee,* – *Stage IV - final evaluation of competence, experience and scientific achievements,* – *Stage V - adjudication of the competition and announcement of results.*
Anticipated date and method of notification of the competition outcomes	Interviews will take place online on the 16-20th of November 2026. Candidates will be individually notified about their interview schedule with the selection committee. Candidates will be informed of the final results via email no later than on the 18th December 2026.

[6] Delete as appropriate.
[7] Not sooner than 30 days from the date of publication of the announcement.

Contact for any questions relating to the competition	Via email: m.talanda@uw.edu.pl (please include the announcement reference number). Accessibility needs should be indicated on the Candidate's Questionnaire, in: *Other relevant information from a candidate*

Employing faculty/unit:

Research profile of faculty /unit	The Faculty conducts research across a broad range of biological sciences disciplines. More details are available on the *Faculty website*.
Teaching profile of faculty/ unit	The Faculty offers degree programs in *Biology* and *Biotechnology* and co-organizes programs in *Nature Conservation* and *Bioinformatics & Systems Biology*.
Other information	More details can be found on the *Faculty website*.

The University of Warsaw has implemented the procedure for whistleblowers reporting cases of law violation and for undertaking follow-up actions. For **more information** about this topic and the processing of candidates' personal data please follow the *link*

The University of Warsaw is a winner of the HR Excellence in Research award granted by the European Commission to institutions adhering to the European Charter for Researchers.

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