

Herbivory Network Meeting 2019

We are organising a Herbivory Network meeting in Yamal next Fall 2019. The meeting will consist of parallel workshops on projects initiated within the Herbivory Network, including the development of standardized protocols and work on data from experimental sites in Yamal. The meeting will also include a public lecture on herbivory in tundra ecosystems and an optional field trip to a low arctic long-term monitoring site.

Dates, venue and registration

The meeting will be organized in **Labytnangi, Yamal, 19-21 September 2019**. In addition to participating in an interesting program about herbivory, this can be an occasion to discover western Siberia, a fascinating region in the circumpolar North. There is **no registration fee** for the meeting, but participants need to confirm their attendance before April 1, 2019, so that visas and travel details can be arranged well in advance.



The meeting will be hosted at the Arctic Research Station of the Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology of the Ural Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences. The Arctic Research Station is a rapidly developing institution doing research focussed on monitoring and dynamics of arctic ecosystems (more info about the station in [English](#) and [Russian](#)). The station is situated in the town of [Labytnangi](#), in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District. The [hotel “Seven Larches”](#) (which is also the Nenets origin of the name of the town) is situated 10 min walking distance from the station. Labytnangi is just across the Ob’ river from Salekhard – the capital city of Yamal. There are several daily flights from Moscow to Salekhard. Organizers will meet participants at the airport upon arrival.

Field trip to Erkuta

There is an option to have a field visit to Erkuta after the meeting, 22-24 Sept. Erkuta is a long-term field site of the Arctic Research Station, which is situated 220 km north of Labytnangi in the south of Yamal Peninsula, in the low Arctic shrub tundra. It has a rather lush vegetation with highly productive willow thickets and different typical tundra types. It is also the home of a diverse community of herbivores, including domestic reindeer that are herded in the traditional way by the Nenets people living close by. Ecological research has been carried out at the site for more than 20 years.

The field visit will start with a train trip from Labytnangi departing at 21:30 on Saturday Sept 21. We will arrive at the field site on the next morning. There we will visit the area, look for instance at some herbivore exclosures and spend the evening together with a Nenets family. On the next day there will be more time for exploring the area before the train will return to Labytnangi at 18:30 and be in town at 5:55 on Tuesday Sept 24. There is limited space for this trip, so please let us know as soon as possible if you would be interested in joining.

Preliminary agenda

Wednesday 18 Sept	
18:00	Arrival of participants. Flights from Moscow arrive at 8:00 (Yamalairline; leaving Moscow 3:10) or 16:45 (Aeroflot, leaving Moscow 11:40)
20:00-21:00	Public lecture on herbivory in tundra ecosystems
Thursday 19 Sept 2019	
9:00-12:00	Parallel workshops
13:00-14:00	Short overview of ongoing projects This session will cover topics that will not otherwise be discussed in depth during the meeting, but that we would still like to hear about :)
14:00-17:00	Parallel workshops
17:00-18:00	Summary of workshops of the day
Friday 20 Sept 2019	
9:00-12:00	Parallel workshops
13:00-15:00	Parallel workshops
15:00-16:00	Summary of workshops of the day
16:00-18:00	Discussion of new ideas
Saturday 21 Sept 2019	
9:00-11:00	Parallel workshops
11:00-12:00	Wrap up and conclusions
	Departure Flights from Salekhard leave at 17:45 (Aeroflot, arriving to Moscow 18:45) or 9:10 (Yamalairline, arriving to Moscow 10:10)

The aim of the meeting is to advance (and hopefully finalize) some of the ongoing HN projects, during the parallel workshops. Possible topics include (but are not limited to – please feel free to suggest other topics):

- Yamal exclosures MS draft. Svetlana Sokovnina
- Invertebrate herbivory protocol. Isabel C Barrio
- Systematic map of herbivore effects in the Arctic (MS draft hands on work/discussion). Eeva Soininen
- ITEX protocol final version and small MS. Isabel C Barrio

Some new ideas/topics to discuss:

- Development of the Yamal transect. Sasha Sokolov/Bruce Forbes
- Herbivory and traditional knowledge in Yamal. Sasha Sokolov
- Development of a quick-and-dirty protocol to measure herbivory pressure. Eeva Soininen
- Herbivores, shrubification and biogeochemical cycles. Emmanuel Serrano/Soil Working Group
- Extreme weather events. Sasha Sokolov

The meeting is organized by Sasha Sokolov, Natalya Sokolova, Svetlana Sokovnina, Eeva Soininen, Dorothee Ehrich, Nicolas Lecomte and Isabel C Barrio. Please do not hesitate to contact us at herbivory.network@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments.