

Herbivory Network meeting at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station

The next Herbivory Network meeting will take place in Cambridge Bay next June 13-16, 2023. The aim of the meeting is to advance ongoing projects and start new collaborations that will contribute to a better understanding of the effects of herbivores on arctic ecosystems. The meeting will include a public lecture and short field visits and discussions with community members.

The Herbivory Network (HN) is a collaborative research initiative (<http://herbivory.lbhi.is>). Since its establishment in 2014, the HN has worked towards addressing the role of herbivory in Arctic and alpine ecosystems and developing new approaches to harmonise research efforts. The goal of HN is to foster collaborations within and across disciplines, facilitate multi-site comparisons, and work towards understanding the complexity and variability of responses of tundra ecosystems to herbivory.



Preliminary meeting agenda

Monday June 12, 2023 – arrival of participants to Cambridge Bay

Tuesday June 13, 2023

8:30-10:00 Presentations by participants on ongoing research projects and initiatives (*online access* to other participants will be available)

10:30-12:00 Coordinated protocols to assess the effects of herbivore diversity on tundra

13:00-18:00 Herbivory Network Workshop – Kitikmeot issues and opportunities

18:00-19:00 Open public lecture: *Greener Arctic: more shrubs, less berries?*
By Prof. Esther Lévesque, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Wednesday June 14, 2023

8:30-18:00 Coordinated protocols (cont.): implementation in the field

Thursday June 15, 2023

8:30-15:30 Herbivory Network Workshop (cont.)

16:00-18:00 Brainstorming session on contribution of HN to the ICARP IV process

Friday June 16, 2023

8:30-10:00 Future collaboration within the network (*online access* to other participants will be available)

10:30-12:00 Closing remarks and conclusions

Activities during the meeting

As in previous HN meetings, activities will be organized around several workshops on projects initiated within the Herbivory Network with the aim of advancing and finalising ongoing work, as well as discussing new ideas for future collaboration. The meeting will also include a public lecture on herbivory in tundra ecosystems and short field trips around the community of Cambridge Bay. The agenda is flexible to accommodate weather for the field visits or activities that may take longer time. There will be two blocks that are a little bit less flexible (*Presentations by participants* on Tuesday June 13 8:30-10:00, and *Future collaboration within the network* on Friday June 16 8:30-10:00) because they will be open to online participation of European colleagues, so time zone differences need to be considered.

- **Presentations by participants:** participants are encouraged to prepare a short presentation about their ongoing research, ideas for future collaboration or anything they wish to share with the network. This will be an informal presentation, and it can range for just saying a few words to having some slides that can then be shared with other participants. These presentations will take place during the joint online sessions.
- **Coordinated protocols to assess the effects of herbivore diversity on tundra:** within the project TUNDRAsalad that aims at investigating the effects of herbivore diversity on tundra ecosystems, we have designed an experimental and an observational protocol for data collection across tundra sites (<https://herbivory.lbhi.is/tundra-exclosure-network-texnet/>). WP leader Elina Kaarlejärvi successfully secured funding from INTERACT Transnational and Remote Access to implement the observational protocol in Cambridge Bay and other INTERACT stations across the Arctic. The implementation in Cambridge Bay during the meeting will also serve as a demonstration for other meeting participants that can then implement the protocol at their study sites in summer 2023. This workshop will be led by Isabel C Barrio.
- **Herbivory Network Workshop – Kitikmeot issues and opportunities:** Herbivory is a key ecological process modifying the responses of arctic ecosystems to climate change, but herbivores are also extremely important for the livelihoods of many northern communities. There are thus many opportunities for researchers and Indigenous communities to collaborate and learn from each other by co-creating knowledge that contributes to understanding the complex dynamics of arctic socio-ecological systems. This workshop will be led by David Hik.
- **Brainstorming session on contribution of HN to the ICARP IV process:** the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV; <https://icarp.iasc.info/>) lasting from 2022 until 2026 is a planning process that will engage Arctic researchers, Indigenous Peoples, policy makers, residents and stakeholders from around the world to collegially discuss the state of Arctic science, and the place the Arctic occupies in global affairs and systems. ICARP IV will consider the most urgent knowledge gaps and Arctic research priorities and needs for the next decade and explore avenues to address these research needs. The emphasis is placed on important research questions that cut across disciplines and knowledge systems, and that require new and innovative thinking and collaboration. Discussions between HN researchers will bring interesting insights into the directions that arctic herbivory research could take in the future.

Venue and logistics

The meeting will be hosted at the [Canadian High Arctic Research Station \(CHARS\)](#), a leading research facility run by Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) in the community of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. You can take a virtual tour of the station [here](#). Accommodation has been secured for the whole group for the nights 12-17 June in apartment units with shared rooms and shared kitchen facilities. Some meals will be provided during the workshop, but there are also two grocery stores in town where you can purchase almost anything. Once confirmed, please let us know your travel itinerary so that we can plan for picking you up at the airport.

During the meeting we will be going out to the field, so please make sure you have the necessary gear with you (binoculars, rubber boots, rain gear, warm layers... the usual). Please do not hesitate to contact Isabel (isabel@lbhi.is) if you have any questions or comments.

Online participation: some of the activities during the meeting will be open for online participation. Those planning on attending part of the meetings online, please contact Isabel (isabel@lbhi.is) to get a link for the meeting.

Funding and support



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