

Herbivory Network workshop: Emerging priorities in terrestrial herbivory research in the Arctic

After 10 years of contributing to circumpolar research on plant-herbivore interactions, the [Herbivory Network](#) is using a horizon scan to identify research priorities in Arctic herbivory for the coming decade. As part of this process, the Herbivory Network organized a one-day in-person workshop, as a pre-conference activity, parallel to the Nordic Society Oikos conference held in Lund, March 12-15, 2024.

During the workshop, participants worked on refining the emerging themes and determining key action points for Arctic herbivory research in the next decade, based on feedback received from Arctic herbivory experts through an online survey. You can find more information about the project [here](#).

The workshop was organized by Isabel C Barrio (Agricultural University of Iceland), Stefaniya Kamenova (University of Oslo) and Helen Anderson (University of Aberdeen). Registration for the workshop was open through the portal of the NSO conference, ensuring a broader participation than from network members alone. A total of 26 researchers participated in the workshop, many of them early career scientists.



The Herbivory Network workshop was organized as part of the activities of the Nordic Oikos Society conference 2024 held in Lund. The workshop took place in the Ecology Building of the University of Lund. A total of 26 researchers participated in the workshop (photo: Laura Barbero-Palacios)

Meeting agenda

During the workshop a strong emphasis was placed on hands-on work and discussions, first in smaller groups, and then in the larger groups to try to reach consensus on the suggestions presented by the smaller groups. In the morning session, a brief introduction of the project was given by Isabel C Barrio, and workshop participants

introduced themselves. Participants split into four groups (5-8 participants each), led by Isabel C Barrio, Stefaniya Kamenova, Mathilde Defourneaux and Laura Barbero-Palacios. All groups were provided with a list of 146 questions compiled from the input received from the online surveys. The online surveys took place before the workshop, and included an initial elicitation of input by Arctic herbivory researchers, where researchers were asked to provide up to 5 questions they thought would be relevant in Arctic herbivory research in the coming decade. In a second step, after deduplicating questions and cleaning the database, researchers were asked to score the questions in terms of two criteria: their scientific relevance and their relevance to management. The list of questions provided to workshop participants was ranked based on this online scoring, and the top 25% for each criterion (scientific and management) were retained for further discussion. The groups were tasked with synthesizing the top-ranked questions in each criterion.

In the afternoon session, the four groups came back together to share and discussed their suggested synthesis. After the workshop, the conclusions will be summarized as a manuscript draft.

Workshop agenda – Tuesday March 12, 2024

- 9:00-9:30 Welcome and introductions (Isabel C Barrio, all)
- 9:30-10:30 Breakout groups: discuss top ranked questions (scientific, management, overall; 20 min each)
- 10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00-12:00 Breakout groups: quick scan of non-prioritized questions (10 min each)
- 12:00-13:00 LUNCH
- 13:00-14:30 General discussion: input from groups
- 14:30-15:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 15:00-16:00 General discussion
- 16:00-16:30 Wrap up and final remarks

Background about Herbivory Network

The Herbivory Network (HN) is an international 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. The Herbivory Network was endorsed as a UArctic Thematic Network in 2020.

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