

Polar biodiversity, past, present and future

A new Current Themes Symposium

November 2, 2007

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Polar Diversity, the past and the future

It was the Austrian Navy officer, Karl Weyprecht, who, in 1875, advocated internationally coordinated exploration of the polar regions; his views were influential in the formation of the first International Polar Year of 1882–83.

Now, we are in the fourth International Polar Year, 2007-2009, but Weyprecht's ideas are still very valid. Especially in biodiversity research, big steps forward have been, and are still, made during coordinated research programmes involving scientists from many countries. It is only very recently that we discovered the amazing species richness of the deeper layers of the Southern Ocean, much richer than the Arctic waters (Angelika Brandt). And we also discovered, only a few years ago, that a very sharp biogeographical border existed at the basis of the Antarctic Peninsula and also that the terrestrial organisms in Antarctica might well be survivors of pre-glaciation periods (Pete Convey, Henk Brinkhuis). These and other new and exciting facts have only been recently discovered in collaborative research projects and will be presented at the symposium on November 2nd, by the discoverers themselves.



But we will also be informed of the effects of climate change on the polar regions (Michiel van den Broeke) and how this may affect the biodiversity (Rien Aerts). Some speakers will report on teleconnections between both the polar biome and the rest of the world (Maarten Loonen): the increasing risk of invasion of non-indigenous species (Steven Chown), because of increased human travel and transport of goods, enhanced by the amelioration of the climate.



Organisation

Organisation:

[Dr. Ad Huiskes](#), [Netherlands Institute of Ecology](#).

Advice and overview:

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Location of the Ecological implications of adaptive behavior Symposium

Date: November 2, 2007

Venue: WICC, Wageningen The Netherlands

Admission, including lunch: €22,50 (Students & PhDs: €12,50)

Starting time: 10.00 hrs.

Registration: [Click here to register](#)

[Address and route](#) to the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC).

Programme

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10.00-10.25	Registration and coffee
10.25-10.30	Introduction by the organisers.
10.30-11.05	Steven Chown , Centre for Invasion Biology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Hemispheric asymmetry in diversity: polar perspectives on a changing world.
11.05-11.40	Henk Brinkhuis , Institute of Environmental Biology, Laboratory of Palaeobotany and Palynology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. From Greenhouse to Icehouse and back again: a dinoflagellate perspective.
11.40-12.15	Michiel van den Broeke , Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Climate and change in the polar regions.
12.15-13.35	Lunch
13.35-14:10	Angelika Brandt , Zoological Museum, University of Hamburg, Germany. Biodiversity and biogeography of the deep Southern Ocean benthos.
14.10-14.45	Rien Aerts , Dept. Of Systems Ecology, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Biodiversity patterns in a changing polar world.
14.45-15.15	Tea
15.15-15.50	Maarten Loonen , Arctic Centre, University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Changing goose populations and their effect on biodiversity in the Arctic.
15.50-16.30	David K.A. Barnes & Peter Convey , . British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK. Polar biodiversity - levels of knowledge and vulnerabilities.
16.30	End