

The NEFOM network – Activities 2015

Fungi are key players in forest ecosystem nutrient and carbon cycling. Other fungi are detrimental for trees as pathogens. The aim of the NEFOM network is to bring scientist together who studies fungi in Nordic forests with special emphasis on emerging techniques to identify and name fungi from complex samples like soil and wood. Below our activities from 2015 are reported.



Fungal mycelia washed out from soil. It is from such complex multi-species samples that we continuously aim to improve the methods for identifying each component.

Bioinformatics PhD course in Oslo, Norway, May 2015

A Bioinformatics PhD course was organized by NEFOM member Håvard Kausrud, in Oslo, Norway, 16-20 March. NEFOM sponsored the participation of five network members joining the course. The course taught bioinformatics pipelines for curating and analysing the results of high throughput sequencing from environmental samples e.g. soil and dead wood.

Dead Wood Meeting in Lammi, Finland, May 2015

NEFOM sponsored the participation of five network members to join the Dead Wood Meeting,

in Lammi, Finland, 24-27 May. The meeting was organized by NEFOM member Dmitry Schigel and the Nordic-Russian Boreal Forest Biodiversity Education Network (SIU). Dead Wood Meetings are student and researcher symposiums with invited lectures with the goal to spur student communication and to close the gap between the university lectures and real-life conservationists. This activity is continued in 2016 see

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/deadwoodmeeting/registration/> for information and registration.

Microbial Community Analysis

The network co-sponsored a novel PhD course on state-of-the-art analysis methods for microbial communities. The course program included teaching and hands-on practicals on ways to explore species richness and how to compare communities. Teaching also addressed some of the newest developments within the field as analysis of species traits, phylogenetic dispersion and GLS modelling. The course was held 18-22 May at University of Copenhagen and had 26 participants.

NEFOM annual meeting

At the network's annual meeting in Dragør, Denmark, January 2016, 22 scientists from all Nordic countries as well as the Baltic States were present. The meeting focused on new research lines within the network especially on research integrating many different data types and data sources i.e. Big Data approaches to science. The meeting was also visited by two distinctive guests Andrey Yurkov from the German Collection of Microorganisms, DSMZ who talked on soil yeasts and Martin Bidartondo from Kew Gardens/Imperial College who talked on large scale ectomycorrhizal surveys.



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NEFOM networking benefits

The NEFOM network stems from a long lasting collaboration between the most influential forest mycological research-groups in the Nordic countries. Over the years the network has produced dozens of high profiled joint publications and also initiated the build-up of the fungal specific sequence database UNITE (www.unite.ut.ee) which today is the most recognized database for fungal barcodes. Also, NEFOM provides a platform for emerging young scientist enabling these with a long-lasting professional network.



UNITE meeting in Tartu 2002. Today, still half of the persons on the photo are active in the current NEFOM network.

NB Forest Policy and Research Briefs

Author name(s) and affiliation

Published September 2, 2013

SNS Project name and number

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) www.nordicforestresearch.org



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