

EDGG Event

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EDGG Field Workshops 2019: Switzerland and Armenia

Fist call

Since 2009, the **EDGG Field Workshops** (formerly known as **EDGG Research Expeditions**) are a major element of the annual activities of EDGG. They aim at the **collection of standardised, multi-scale and multi-taxon diversity and composition data** (see Dengler et al. 2016) from understudied Palaeartic grassland types. The data collected during the Field Workshops are used for **joint publications by the participants** and they are fed into the **EDGG vegetation-plot database, called GrassPlot** (Dengler et al. 2018). While originally only vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens and soil data have been collected, we meanwhile aim to include other taxonomic groups that could reasonably be sampled during a once-off visit, including grasshoppers, leaf hoppers, spiders, and butterflies (Dengler et al. 2016; Polchaninova et al. 2018).

So far 11 such events took place in different parts of Europe and Asia, but the number of interested participants steadily grew. For the 11th Field Workshop 2018 in Austria for the first time not all interested applicants could be accepted due to organisational limitations. Therefore, we plan for **2019 two Field Workshops** to ensure that all interested EDGG members can participate in at least one of them. Unsuccessful applicants of 2018 will have priority when they apply again.

We are looking forward to a **good mixture of long-term participants and “newcomers”, of members at different academic levels (from Bachelor students to professors)**

and from many different countries. While vascular plants are the core of the sampling, we are very **eager to include also bryophyte and lichen specialists as well as zoologists and/or microbiologists** who wish to sample their respective taxonomic groups on the same plots.

In the following, you find **preliminary announcements** of both events that allow you to “block” the respective dates. Full calls will be published in the next issue of *Palaeartic Grasslands*. Only after these full calls an official application for participation is possible. In order to plan (e.g. to get an impression on the number of places needed), we recommend, however, that you inform EDGG’s Field Workshop Coordinator of your wish to participate in one or both events. If you have specific questions on one of the two events, you can contact their main organisers. If you have expertise in grassland taxa other than vascular plants (bryophytes, lichens, invertebrates, soil metagenomics,...) and consider joining one of the events, please approach Jürgen and Idoia as early as possible to discuss options.

12th EDGG Field Workshop: Inneralpine dry valleys of Switzerland

Approx. dates: 11–19 May 2019

Main organiser: Jürgen Dengler, juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de



Rocky steppe above the Rhone valley in Varen, Valais, Switzerland. Photo: J. Dengler.

Number of participants: up to 9 (or up to 18) persons in total, including 1–4 organisers, i.e. 5–15 other participants

Thematic scope: Dry grasslands (*Festuco-Brometea*, *Koelerio-Corynephoretea/Sedo-Scleranthetea*, *Trifolio-Geranietea*) of continental, inneralpine valleys of Switzerland, i.e. in the Cantons of Grisons and Valais

Start and end point: Wädenswil near Zurich (easily reachable by metro from Zurich Airport and Zurich main station in about 1/2 hour)

Approx. costs: Not yet clear (we try to find an affordable solution, but Switzerland is an expensive country)

IAVS travel grants: not available; all available funds are assigned to the 13th Field Workshop

More information: Braun-Blanquet (1961) and Dengler (2018)

13th EDGG Field Workshop: Grasslands of Armenia along the elevational gradient

Approx. dates: 26 June –7 July 2019

Main organiser: Alla Alexanyan, alla.alexanyan@gmail.com

Number of participants: up to 20 (exceptionally up to 30) persons in total, including four organisers, i.e. up to 16 other vascular plant botanists and up to 8 specialists for other taxa.

Thematic scope: All types of mesic, dry and rocky grasslands that occur in the country along the full elevational gradient (850–3000 m a.s.l.)

Start and end point: Yerevan

Approx. costs: 850 € (postdoc/professor, non IAVS member), 750 € (postdoc/professor & IAVS member OR student/PhD student & non IAVS member), 650 € (student/PhD student & IAVS member)

IAVS travel grants: available upon application based on motivation letter & financial need

More information: Fayvush & Aleksanyan (2016) and Fayvush et al. (2016, 2017)

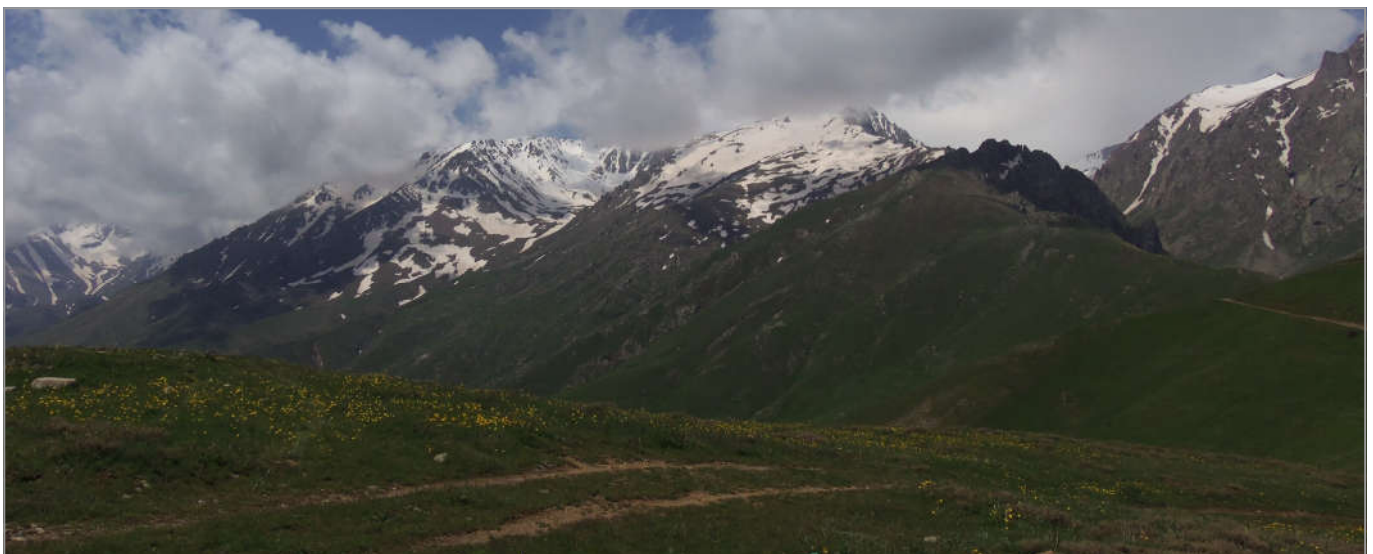
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Grasslands in the Syunik region, Zangezur mountain range, Armenia. Photo: G. Fayvush & A. Aleksanyan.