

62nd Annual Symposium of the IAVS “Vegetation Science and Biodiversity Research”

14–19 July 2019, Bremen



Conference website

<http://iavs.org/2019-Annual-Symposium/Home.aspx>



IAVS



The International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), the parental organisation of EDGG, is holding this year's symposium in Bremen, Northern Germany. The overall topic of the symposium, the topics of the Special Sessions and the foci of the excursions are quite attractive for grassland ecologists and conservationists. We would appreciate to welcome many of you there! The conference website with registration and abstract submission have just opened.

Special Sessions

There are 12 appealing Special Sessions, among them Session 5 organised by the EDGG database “GrassPlot” and Session 10 organised by EDGG as a whole. Talks and posters that do not fit in any topical session can be submitted to a free session. We particularly encourage your contributions to the two Special Sessions associated with EDGG. If there are sufficient good contributions, we will consider the organisation of Special Features in *Journal of Vegetation Science* or other suitable journals.

Fig. 1. Bremen musicians. - the symbol of the city of Bremen, following a famous fairy tale of the Grimm brothers. Photo: M. Diekmann.



Fig. 2. The famous town hall of Bremen. Bremen is a Hanseatic city of 570,000 inhabitants at the River Weser. Photo: M. Diekmann.

Special Session 5 organised by GrassPlot

Species-area relationships and other scaling laws in plant biodiversity

Alessandro Chiarucci, Iwona Dembicz & Jürgen Dengler

Plant biodiversity, its patterns and drivers are inherently scale-dependent. Species-area relationships (SARs) are the most prominent of such scale dependencies. Despite such SARs have been a major topic of plant ecology for over one century, only recent advances in non-linear modelling and theory combined with large datasets could (largely) dissolve these long-lasting disputes over the nature of species-area relationships. However, there are many other manifestations of scale-dependencies in plant biodiversity, including determination of biodiversity hot-spots, diversity-environment relationships, relative importance of environmental filtering vs. competitive exclusion, patterns of plant invasions, relationships to species-abundance distributions, impact of scaling laws on vegetation classification, etc. With this Special Session, we want to provide a platform for presenting and discussing new results and ideas on scaling laws in plant biodiversity at any spatial scale (from square millimetres to the surface of the Earth) and for any habitat or biome. We welcome empirical studies, simulations, conceptual-theoretical contributions as well as presentations on databases and statistical tools to account for scale-dependencies when analysing data diversity data across spatial scales.

Special Session 10 organised by EDGG

Patterns, drivers, and conservation opportunities of grassland biodiversity

Didem Ambarlı, Riccardo Guarino, Alla Aleksanyan & Péter Török

Grasslands cover nearly 30% of all terrestrial surface, including diverse habitat types ranging from wet muddy slacks in lowlands to harsh rocky habitats in alpine environments. Grasslands harbour an extremely rich biodiversity, which is comparable at small scale to the richness of Atlantic rain forests. Grasslands provide essential ecosystem services and goods and contributing by 70% to all agricultural lands sustain the livelihood around 2 billion people worldwide. Grasslands face multiple threats worldwide including area loss, altered management by intensification or the cessation of former management, which can be listed as most important drivers. Describing biodiversity patterns and understanding key processes sustaining grassland biodiversity is essential for an effective conservation and restoration. The Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) is an official working group of the IAVS and aims to facilitate and coordinate grassland research and conservation in the Palaeartic Biogeographic Realm. With this special session we would like to draw attention to the latest advancements in grassland research, and facilitate the scientific communication of researchers working with different types of grasslands worldwide.

Excursions

Many of the pre-, mid- and post-symposium excursions have a strong grassland focus:

Pre-symposium excursion 10–14 July 2019

Harz and Kyffhäuser

Helge Bruelheide & Ute Jandt

Organised by two long-standing EDGG members, this excursion will lead to the southeast of Bremen to the northernmost mountain range in Germany that reaches the timber line (Harz) and to the Central German dry area in its rain shadow (Kyffhäuser and surroundings). A wide array of different grassland communities will be shown, in particular *Violion caninae*, *Polygono-Trisetion*, *Bromion erecti*, *Festucion valesiaca*, *Cirsio-Brachypodion*, *Toninion*, *Geranion sanguinei* as well as communities of heavy metal soils and rocky outcrops. Besides that, the study region also has nice forests and mires.



Calcareous grassland and rock vegetation, Pre-Harz. Photo: M. Diekmann.

Mid-symposium excursions 17 July 2019

The symposium week is interrupted on Wednesday by one-day excursions in the closer surroundings of Bremen. Eight attractive choices are available, from “Plant diversity in open cultural landscapes in Bremen” to “Heathlands and forests in the Lüneburger Heide”.



Ditch with *Stratiotes aloides* in a wet grassland near Bremen. Photo: M. Diekmann.

Post-symposium excursion 20–25 July 2019

Wadden Sea Islands

Maike Isermann

This excursion is conducted on two East Frisian islands (Baltrum and Spiekeroog) in one of the Wadden Sea National Parks. The vegetation types studied mainly belong to grasslands *sensu lato*, namely *Therosalicornietea*, *Juncetea maritimi*, *Ammophiletea*, *Koelerio-Corynephoretea*, *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* and *Scheuchzerio-Caricetea*.



Dune grasslands on a Wadden Sea island (c). Photo: M. Diekmann.

Prices

For IAVS members the conference fee (early bird) is 490 EUR, for students who are IAVS members even only 290 EUR, while non-IAVS members pay 580 EUR and 370 EUR, respectively. If you plan to attend, it is in any case worth to join IAVS because the annual fee is only 27 USD (regular) and 14 USD (students), i.e. much less than the differences in conference fees. Moreover, IAVS membership is completely free for many countries: <http://iavs.org/Membership/Financial-Support.aspx>. Moreover, students and other people with low income who are IAVS members can apply for travel grants to cover their conference fees.

Further details: <http://iavs.org/2019-Annual-Symposium/Registration.aspx>

Important dates

- 24 March 2019: Deadline for abstract submission
- 24 March 2019: Deadline for IAVS travel grant applications
- 10 May 2019: Deadline for early bird registration with reduced fees
- 25 June 2019: Deadline for standard registration

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