

From: International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) <ITEX-LIST@LISTS.UBC.CA> **On Behalf Of** Signe Lett
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 11:16 AM
To: ITEX-LIST@LISTS.UBC.CA
Subject: Collaboration on moss functional groups - conceptual paper

Dear ITEXers,

Thank you for a wonderful ITEX week in Parma!!

This is a follow-up on the initiative that we started at the meeting to approach the challenge of registering changes in mosses/bryophytes in tundra ecosystems. - and a possibility to let us know if you are interested in joining.

THE BACKGROUND: Mosses are hard to identify in the field (and in the lab) for most people and this will likely not change. However, mosses play various important roles in tundra. Their occurrence and diversity increase with latitude and different species likely have different functions. Currently many people do not consider mosses in most of their vegetation monitoring and if monitored, mosses are often considered as one functional group.

In a break-out group during the meeting, we discussed how to tackle this problem. In brief, we discussed the possibility of defining functional groups within mosses/bryophytes, based on existing/ future trait data. Furthermore, we discussed if we have enough trait data already, what these traits should be and what "functions" the functional groups should represent, if there should be multiple levels of functional groups, etc. We hope you are interested in contributing to the development of standardized functional groups for mosses in tundra ecosystems.

The aim is to synthesize the outcome in a conceptual paper for the special issue in Arctic Science.

If you are interested in being a part of this work, please let me/us know - also so if you weren't at the meeting and have a burning moss heart. It would be great to get your expertise!

Best wishes,

Signe and Inga Svala

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