

# ForBio course: taxonomy and biology of polypores

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September (14) 15-19 2014, Lammi Biological Station,  
University of Helsinki, Finland

Language of instruction:	English
Grade and credits:	Pass/Fail, 3 ECTS (+ optional 1 ECTS for poster)
Course materials:	Identification key is provided
Course contact persons:	Dmitry S. Schigel (dmitry.shchigel@helsinki.fi), Sergei V. Drovetski (sdrovetski@gmail.com)
Course leader:	Tuomo Niemelä (University of Helsinki, tuomo.niemela@helsinki.fi)
Venue:	Lammi Biological Station, Finland <a href="http://www.helsinki.fi/lammi/english.html">http://www.helsinki.fi/lammi/english.html</a>
Dates:	5 days Mon-Fri: 15-19 September 2014. Note: arrival on Sunday
Quota:	15 students

## Summary

A field course for students of University of Helsinki and for ForBio students on polypores and other wood-inhabiting fungi, with special emphasis on threatened species and the ecology of old-growth forests. An introductory course based on field trips and species identification training sessions using macro morphological characters. Course materials include herbarium specimens and fresh fruit bodies of 50-80 key species of Nordic polypores. An identification key is provided.

## Course focus and activities

The course is based on brightly illustrated lectures and macroscopic identification session mixed with field excursion in southern taiga. No previous knowledge of polypores or other fungi is required. A substantial component of learning process is independent identification practice in the specimen exhibition built during the course. The course has some room for extra lectures by invited speakers and for poster presentation by students (optional extra credit).

## General information

Course participants are expected to have basic knowledge in biology. Some knowledge of mycology and ecology is an advantage. No preparatory reading is required. Evaluation will be based on an examination of 10+ specimens. Successful course participation will be certified as "passed". Course starts on Monday, 9:00 and ends on Friday by 13:00. The course dates in September 2014 will be announced in early 2014. Therefore, it is expected that you arrive to Lammi Biological Station on Sunday before the course.

## Required previous knowledge/course specific requirements

Master degree in biology

## Assessment

Course exam during the course week

## Course costs

No course fee. ForBio will cover course-related travel costs from home institution to Lammi Biological Station at lowest fare, accommodation in the shared rooms (bedclothes and towels provided), and food during course provided at the station. The course is aimed at the PhD students and post-docs enrolled at Norwegian, Danish, Swedish or Finnish universities who have projects in biosystematics or related topics, who are members of the Norwegian-Swedish-Danish-Finnish Research School in Biosystematics (ForBio). Master students in biosystematics also can register for this course, but PhD students have a priority if the course fills up.

## Terms for reimbursement:

For travel reimbursement you will have to fill out the standard Norwegian travel form and send it with original receipts to Sergei V. Drovetski (Tromsø University Museum, NO-9037 Tromsø Norway). You must order flight tickets within 4 days after you receive confirmation from us; this is to get access to the cheapest tickets possible. Other types of transportation (bus, trains, etc.) that can be pre-booked, should also be booked as early as possible.

## Application:

Persons with a genuine interest in fungal taxonomy and forest biodiversity willing to participate in the course

1. First have to register as ForBio member or associates (please visit ForBio membership page (<http://www.forbio.uio.no/membership/>). After registration as ForBio associate, please send an e-mail to Sergei V. Drovetski ([sdrovetski@gmail.com](mailto:sdrovetski@gmail.com)) expressing your interest in ForBio and briefly describing your research interest(s)/project(s).
2. Participants are selected by Tuomo Niemelä based on 1-paragraph motivation letters sent by e-mails to [dmitry.shchigel@helsinki.fi](mailto:dmitry.shchigel@helsinki.fi) by 30 April 2014

## Course logistics

The course will be based at the Lammi Biological Station, Finland <http://www.helsinki.fi/lammi/english.html>. Lammi is about 120 km north from Helsinki, and we plan to arrange the transportation from Helsinki via airport on Sunday and back on Friday. The estimated arrival time to Helsinki-Vantaa airport is 16:00, to Helsinki city center 16:45.

There will be field excursions every day from Monday to Friday using station minibuses.

## Clothing

We can expect all kinds of autumn weather, with practically guaranteed spells of rain. Raingear, including waterproof pants, plus rubber boots or membrane hiking boots are essential. Mosquito repellents can be useful, too.

## Meals

The food is ordinary Finnish meals. Let us know about any requirements for special diet. Bring your own teabags, coffee & filters if you plan to use the dormitory kitchen e.g. in the evenings. There is a shared kitchen in the dormitory. Think about your after-sauna and other drinks in advance: the nearest shops and Alko are few kilometres away.

## Preliminary programme (subject to change)

Sunday, DATE		Arrival and check-in
Monday, DATE	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Welcome words Introduction to course Polypores: morphology and identification Identification session 1
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Excursion to forests around the station Identification session 2
	17:00	Dinner
Tuesday, DATE	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Excursion to an old-growth forest
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Identification session 3
	17:00	Dinner
	20:00	Sauna
Wednesday, DATE	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Excursion to an old-growth forest
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Identification session 4 Practice exhibition completed
	17:00	Dinner
Thursday, 3 Oct	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Excursion to an old-growth forest
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Free identification exercise
	17:00	Dinner
	18:00	Examination
	19:00	Sauna
	21:00	Evening party
Friday, 4 Oct	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Excursion to an old-growth forest
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Closing words Course certificates, goodbye and departures

During the course also possible extra workshops and extra lectures.