ForBio field course: Bryophytes

September 9 to 13, 2013

The course is organized and funded by the Research School in Biosystematics (ForBio), and ForBio members have priority. ForBio associates can participate but have to cover their travel and stay. See http://www.forbio.uio.no/ for more information on ForBio and membership.

FACTS ABOUT THE FIELD COURSE:
Recommended course credits: 5 ECTS.
Level: PhD-level course.
Language of instruction: English.
Course start: 09.09.2013
Course end: 13.09.2013
Localities: The mountains of Dovrefjell and at the coast of 'Møre og Romsdal' in Norway.
Admission: Application deadline 08.04.2013.
Final evaluation/Assessment: The students will be working individually or two by two with relevant systematic projects during the field course for parts of the time. There will be a species identification test at the end of the field course and each must deliver a report before 27.09.2013. Grade: pass/fail. A ForBio certificate will be provided if passed.
Contact person: Heidi Solstad (heidi.solstad@ntnu.no).

Preliminary schedule:
Monday September 9th 12:00: We meet at Kongsvoll biologiske stasjon, Oppdal, Sør-Trøndelag. Excursion in the surroundings of Kongsvoll. Course introduction in the evening.
Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th excursion by minibus to Eide and Fræna in Møre og Romsdal to see oceanic bryophyte communities. We will stay at Hustavika Gjestegård
Thursday 12th and Friday 13th excursions at Dovrefjell.
Departure Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Course-specific requirements: The students should have some basic knowledge about bryophytes. All need to have a hand lens, preferably with 20x magnification.

Course materials:
The students have to read relevant literature provided by the instructors before the course start. Students should bring relevant literature for bryophyte determinations. The instructors will bring relevant literature, but they have not enough copies for all students.

Relevant literature for determination of bryophytes during the course:
Damsholt, K. 2002. Illustrated Flora of Nordic Liverworts and Hornworts. Nordic Bryological Society, Lund.
Nyholm, E. 1987-1989. Illustrated flora of Nordic mosses. Fasc. 1-4. Nordic Bryological Society, Lund.
Hallingbäck, T., Lönnell, N., Weibull, H., Hedenäs, L. & von Knorring, P. 2006. Nationalnyckelen till Sveriges flora och fauna. Bryophyta: Buxbaumia – Leucobryum. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.

Hallingbäck, T., Lönnell, N., Weibull, H., von Knorring, P., Korotynska, M., Reisborg, C. & Birgersson, M. 2008. Nationalnyckelen till Sveriges flora och fauna. Bryophyta: Anoectangium–Orthodontium. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.
Atherton, I., Bosanquet, S. & Lawley, M. (eds.). 2010. Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide. British Bryological Society, Plymouth.

Course content: Theoretical background on bryophyte systematics. Training in identification of bryophytes. Techniques for collecting and preparation of specimens will be demonstrated, and the role and importance of scientific collections will be discussed. We will see how ecological factors on a regional and local scale influence species distribution and adaptations.

Teaching program: Fieldwork during the day studying bryophytes and collecting specimens. Work with species determination of the material in the laboratory during the evenings.

Learning outcomes: The students should be able to identify bryophytes to the level of species. They should also get a basic understand on how environmental factors and species specific traits determine bryophyte distribution. The students will learn how to collect and preserve specimens.

Instructors: Henrik Weibull (Naturcentrum AB) and Kristian Hassel (Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology).

PRACTICALITIES

Accommodation and meals: Basic accommodation at with shared rooms and bathroom facilities at 'Kongsvoll biologiske stasjon' at 'Dovrefjell'. Be prepared that we might have to organize some of the meals ourselves, but we will try to recruit someone to take care of this. Also, expect the food to be basic.