

Marine Annelids in the Norwegian Sea

Dates: 5-9 Sept, arriving and departing on flanking days.

Location: Sletvik Field Station, NTNU, Norway

Learning targets

- Collection and laboratory techniques
- Identification training.
- Acquaintance of knowledge about the Norwegian sea fauna
- Concise but updated knowledge about latest phylogenetic hypothesis and other hot topics related to annelids

Course content

Annelida is a morphologically diverse group of animals, comprising about 20,000 species that inhabit practically all marine habitats, as well as many terrestrial and freshwater environments. Annelids have a long history that dates back to the Cambrian but the placement of this group in the tree of life and its phylogeny of the group still presents major challenges. Annelids are ecologically and economically important as ecosystem engineers, as indicators of environmental health, as invasive species and as probably also for being arguably the most abundant metazoans in the deep sea.

During this intensive course, we will do as much collecting and lab work as possible to learn about the characteristics of the main annelid groups and the most common species in the Norwegian Sea. You will learn about different collecting methods and about fixation and preservation techniques for DNA/RNA extraction, microscopy methods and long term conservation. There will also be formal lectures where we will cover the up-to-date knowledge about phylogenies and classification and in the evenings, we will organize some cocktail slides shows and discussions of various topics (e.g. species delimitation, molecular and microscopic techniques, ontogeny and development, enigmatic annelids, etc.)

Teachers: Natalya Budaeva (University Museum, Bergen), Maria Capa (Vitenskapsmuseet, NTNU), Christer Erséus (University of Gothenburg), Conrad Helm (Sars International Centre

for Marine Molecular Biology), Arne Nygren (University of Gothenburg), Torsten Struck (University of Oslo).

Coordinator/Examiner: Maria Capa – ForBio.

Target group: PhD students, master students, researchers, consultants - with some experience in annelid taxonomy

Working language: English

Recommended course credits: 3 ECTS

Number of participants: Maximum 20.

Assessment: Demonstration of abilities.

Fee: No course fee.

Registration: Register indicating the nature and stage of your interest or research project – at the latest, August 15. Priority will be given to ForBio members and Scandinavian ForBio Associates, and also their motivation to participate in the course, should the maximum number of participants be exceeded.

Course material: ForBio will provide all the collecting and laboratory materials. Students should bring their personal lab tools (at least tweezers). Laptop would be useful.

Travels: Norwegian ForBio members will get their travels (train/plain tickets) reimbursed by ForBio after the course. ForBio will arrange the transport from Trondheim to the field station for all participants.

Accommodation and meals: All participants will stay at the Sletvik Research Station, in shared rooms, where there will be a cook organising meals for everyone. The course includes accommodation and meals for ForBio members. ForBio Associates will have to pay for the accommodation and food valued at 4000 NOK for the 7 nights. Associates will receive an invoice after acceptance in the course (August 16).