

Arctic arthropods — practical and profitable

- Terry Wheeler, McGill University: Large-scale spatial patterns of Canadian Arctic Diptera: diversity, geography and history
- Peter Convey, British Antarctic Survey: How well do we know Barents Sea terrestrial biodiversity?
- Tomas Roslin, University of Helsinki: Reconstructing a high Arctic interaction web
- Joseph Bowden, Aarhus University: Beauty and the beast: butterfly and spider species responses to climate change in Greenland
- Sarah Loboda, McGill University: Ecological and evolutionary responses of Arctic flies to recent climate change in Zackenberg, Greenland

ABA motivation

There is a pressing need for an increased recognition within CAFF that the invertebrates play a significant and essential role in the functioning of Arctic ecosystems.

[...]

“...it is surprising how little attention has been paid to them in previous syntheses on the impact of climate change on the Arctic biota. For example, the [Arctic Climate Impact Assessment](#) barely touches on their biodiversity.”

[...]

“Little is known about the detailed distribution and biology of most species, and good long-term population data on individual species, sufficient to indicate population trends, are almost entirely lacking.”



Recommendations

- Increase recognition of the importance of invertebrates within CAFF
- Initiate comprehensive inventories
- Carry out field surveys to understudied areas
- Classify species according to IUCN red list categories
- Establish sites for long-term monitoring
- Identify indicator species (above and below ground)
- Monitor newly arriving species
- Evaluate the effects of climate change on biting flies