

Sixth International Symposium on Arcto-Alpine Mycology, Greenland, 11-21 August 2000, ISAM VI

*Torbjørn Borgen, President of ISAM 6, and
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ISAM 6 participants in front of the Ice Cap near Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland. Standing, from the left: Ain Raitviir, Esteri Ohenoja, Torbjørn Borgen, Pierre-Arthur Moreau, Ari Jumpponen, Ron H. Petersen, Gro Gulden, Egon Horak, Mikako Sasa, Victor A. Mukhin, Tamotsu Hoshino, Meinhard M. Moser, Kuulo Kalamees, Cathy Cripps, Ronald Senn-Irlet. Sitting, from left: Steen A. Elborne, Karen Hughes, Anne-Mette Larsen, James M. Trappe, Leo Jalink, Marijke Nauta, Beatrice Senn-Irlet. Photo Henning Knudsen.

Greenland is arctic except for a very small subarctic part and the largest part is covered by the Ice Cap, leaving a narrow coastal zone where all terrestrial life takes place. The wilderness and the unspoiled nature provides a living laboratory balancing between life and death, and an attractive working area for biologists. The Sixth International Symposium on Arcto-

Alpine Mycology convened in Kangerlussuaq on August 11, 2000.

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A number of colleagues have kindly acted as reviewers for the included papers: Vincent Demoulin,

Karen Hansen, Egon Horak, Klaus Høiland, Henning Knudsen, Thomas Læssøe, Christian Lange, Marijke Nauta, Ejgil de Neergård, Peter Milan Petersen, Jan Vesterholt, Roy Watling and Tauno Ulvinen. We are very grateful for their help and suggestions.

Symposium itinerary

August 12, the participants spent time about 10 km east of Sandflugtsdalen near the Ice Cap (where the official photo was taken). The landscape consisted of low scrubs of *Salix glauca* and *Betula nana*, melting ice landscapes with small river beds, dunes, steppe-areas and dry heaths on pure sand or sand mixed with nutrient rich loess.

August 13 was dedicated to individual work in the lab or short excursions on foot in the surroundings, e.g. to Hospitalsfjeldet/Køkkenfjeldet, one of late Professor Morten Lange's classical sites (called "Hassels fjeld") during his stay in Kangerlussuaq in 1946. The mountain faces south with dry *Salix glauca* copses and steppe, but at the top around the lakes "Kløftsøerne" 300 m asl. the *Salix glauca* copses were less dry with fens, lakes and fairly moist dwarf scrub heaths.

August 14, excursions to "Kelly Ville" and Ringsø-dalen about 10 km W of the airport. Here, the well-developed 4-5 m high copses of *Salix glauca* in dry and moister (on north sides) dwarf-scrub heaths were visited, as well as the banks of Lake Helen and other small lakes. The similarity of the basidiomycetes on the north-exposed heaths compared to Lange's descriptions of these were astonishing.

August 15, an excursion to the mountain top NW of the Store Saltsø ("Great Salt Lake") area, along the ridge north of Lake Ferguson and through the valley south of Ravneklippen ("Raven Cliff") and Qaasarsorsuaq ("Big cliff"). The main sites were north-exposed, fairly moist heaths, dry heaths, saline banks of Store Saltsø and other saline lakes as well as steppe with *Arctostaphylos* and species of *Draba*.

August 16, transfer to Sisimiut (Holsteinsborg).

August 17, excursion to the mouth of the valley east of Sisimiut. The main target here was fairly copiously developed scrubs of *Betula nana* and *Salix glauca*, along with herb-slopes, dry and moist heaths with *Vaccinium uliginosum* and fens, most of these on nutrient poor, acid ground.

August 18, excursion into the valley east of Sisimiut, an area less oceanic than the day before and more dominated by *Betula nana* heaths. The soils are in places more basic than elsewhere around Sisimiut, and *Dryas*- and *Empetrum*-heaths were present along with snowbeds and moist mires.

August 19, excursions to the foot of mount Palasip Qaqaa ("Vicars Mountain") with low scrubs of *Salix glauca*, oceanic heaths, gravelly slopes and river-beds and fens, to the area S of the water supply lake, about 3 km E of the town with moist *Empetrum-Betula nana* heaths, *Salix* copses, fens and snowbeds, to the north of the town collecting especially on sea shore slopes and to the valley south of Sisimiut of the coastal mountain chain Nasaasaaq ("Witches Hood"), a lowland area with *Salix herbacea* snowbeds, coastal heaths, fell-fields, lake banks and fens.

August 20, individual excursions around the town.

August 21, transfer to Kangerlussuaq and Copenhagen, Denmark.

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