

Vegetation of the High Arctic with special reference to bryophytes

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It is important for prediction of future ecosystem response to climate change in the High Arctic to know the present condition of the vegetation and new habitats by the glacier retreat. We have carried out the study about the ecosystem change in the High Arctic so far, and continued the study for 14 years since we had started the study at Ny-Alesund, Spitsbergen I., Svalbard. On the other hand, the vegetation in Ny-Alesund was compared with that of Arctic Canada as a part of project, TUNDRACYCLE for the International Pole Year (IPY2007-8). Therefore, we investigated the present conditions of the vegetation with special stress on the bryophytes in Canadian Arctic such as Axel Heiberg I., Ellesmere I. and Victoria I. since 2001.

In this session, we would like to discuss about the present condition of the vegetation, especially the settlement and colonization of bryophytes at the glacier foreland.