

3rd International Tea Bag Index workshop

In association with

ESM2018



Helsinki, 21 June 2018



Introduction

The Tea Bag Index can be used as a quick and easy assesment of local effects on decomposition. It has been used world wide for purposes of science and education. The TBI sympsium provides a platform for TBI researchers to meet and discuss the latest develoments and results.



Photocredits: Taru Sandén, Judith Sarneel, ESM2018.

Outline of the day

Sustainability of soils symposium - Main Hall

8:35 E. Furman, R. Creamer, D. Myrgold, and A. Sinkkonen

10:25: coffee

TBI symposium - Main Hall

10:55 Where has the scientific tea break brought us? Judith Sarneel

11:25 Lightning talks on TBI experiments

by Stuart Smith, Inge Althuisen, Taru Sandén and Peter Müller

TBI symposium continued - Kultsa

11:55 TBI meet and greet: Questions or just curious? Come for a teatime during lunch with TBI researchers. Posters session

13:00 Long-term climate regime modulates the impact of short-term climate variability on decomposition in alpine grassland soils. Inge Althuisen

13:15 Termites, teabags and tropical savannahs. Stuart Smith

13:30: TeaTime4Schools: How to put decomposition into practice. Taru Sandén

13:45 Global change effects on litter breakdown in tidal wetlands: implications from a global survey using TBI. Peter Müller

14:00-15:00 Discussion and meeting each other.

Short summary

About 150-200 persons attended the presentations in the main hall, and 20-25 the presentations in Kultsa.

Almost all people in the main lecture hall had heard from the tea bag index before, and about 15% had used it themselves. We discussed methodological developments, on the way the tea bag index can be used to predict k and S of tea with long term time series, and decomposition curves of local litter. The difference between 'old', nylon tea bags and 'new' non-woven ones, as the difference between them has not shown to be consistent between locations.

Inge and Peter discussed what insights the tea has shown along large climatic gradients, Stuart discussed the role of termites and Roey showed the first results of the microbial analyses that were done in the teatime4schools citizen science experiment.

Two posters were discussed.