



2nd International TBI Workshop

01.03.2017

AGES – Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

Location: AGES, Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna, Austria

Organisers: Taru Sandén, Christoph Unger, Friedrich Polesny, in cooperation with the Tea Bag Index team that consists of Judith Sarneel (UMU, UU), Taru Sandén (AGES), Mariet Hefting (UU) and Joost Keuskamp (NIOO)

Contact: Taru Sandén (taru.sanden@ages.at)

Dear Participant,

Thank you for registering to attend the 2nd Tea Bag Index (TBI) Workshop being held at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) on 1st March 2017!

This document provides some further information about the event which will hopefully answer any questions you may have, although feel free to email me at taru.sanden@ages.at if you require any more information.

We look forward to welcoming you to AGES and to Vienna! On behalf of the organizing committee,

Taru Sandén

Tea Bag Index

The Tea Bag Index (TBI) is a standardized method to measure organic matter decomposition in soil. It can be used as reference material in scientific decomposition experiments and for citizen science.

More details of which can be found by following the links below:

<http://www.teatime4science.org/>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/2041-210X.12097/pdf>

The method consists of burying tea bags, and does not require a large effort or complicated instruments. This method was developed and tested by the Tea Bag Index Team and has applications in soil research of decomposition rates in the field, as well as part of larger crowdsourcing projects. The method has also been applied in geothermal and lake ecosystems.

Tea Bag Index Team

We are a group of young enthusiastic researchers that started working together in 2010. Few of us worked at Utrecht University, where we struggled making endless amounts of litterbags and obtaining the right material to make the bags. During a coffee, or rather tea break, we realized that the fabric of the tea bag was the same material as that we used for our scientific experiments. Next we realized that tea is plant material and that a tea bag is actually a litter bag. During a course organized by the PE&RC graduate school in Wageningen in the Netherlands in June 2010, the idea was developed further. From one came another and we started to bury tea in several locations. In 2013 we [published the method](#), and now we are extremely happy to see the experiment and the Tea Bag Index Community grow and grow.

For more info on the TBI Team: <http://www.teatime4science.org/category/who-is-who/>



Keynote speaker – Professor Cindy E Prescott

Professor of Forest Ecology

Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences Faculty of Forestry

University of British Columbia, Canada.

Expertise: nutrient cycling, decomposition, forest soils, forest nutrition, soil and forest restoration

Research:

120+ refereed journal papers on topics related to forest nutrition and nutrient cycling, including: litter decomposition, forest fertilization, influences of tree species on soils, effects of forestry practices on soil processes, linking soil organisms and nutrient cycling processes, and restoration of soils and forests.



Editorial Duties:

- Editor of Forest Ecology and Management 2012-present
- Editor of Canadian Journal of Forest Research 2000-2008

Awards:

- Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award 2005
- Honourary doctorate from University of Helsinki 2014

Of special note:

I have been actively investigating and thinking about litter decomposition for more than 3 decades.

Time	Topic	Room
08:30-09:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee	
09:00-09:10	Andreas Baumgarten - Welcome by AGES	A/E.59
09:10-09:25	Joost Keuskamp - The TBI method and its implications and limitations	A/E.59
09:25-09:40	Taru Sandén - Where are we now? Where do we want to go?	A/E.59
9:40-10:00	How are you involved in TBI?	A/E.59
10:00-10:15	Tea/Coffee	
10:15-10:45	Keynote – Prof. Cindy Prescott - Understanding litter decomposition: recent advances and current challenges	A/E.59
10:45-11:05	Questions & Answers	
11:05-12:45	<i>Global usage of Tea Bag Index</i>	A/E.59
	1 - Haydn Thomas et al. "Using the Tea Bag Index to examine decomposition patterns across the tundra biome: litter substrate explains more than environment "	A/E.59
	2 - Sarah Duddigan et al. "13C CPMAS NMR Study on Litter Decomposition in Tea Bags "	A/E.59
	3 - Ika Djukic et al. "Decomposition Studies Using Local Litter versus Standard Tea—A Field Study and Model Application"	A/E.59
	4 - Megan Evans & Toos van Noordwijk "Using tea bags to communicate 'the world's largest lesson' to teachers and pupils"	A/E.59
	5 - AfSafran & Alatalo " Using tea bags to detect variation in decomposition rates across sites in extreme environments in Qatar and alpine subarctic Sweden"	A/E.59
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-15:15	<i>Break out groups</i>	
	1 – Training the teachers – Dos and Don'ts of TBI Citizen Science – ALTER training – Judith Sarneel & Taru Sandén	A/E.59
	2 – Your experiences with TBI – Joost Keuskamp	A/E.48
	3 – Visit to AGES Lysimeter – Andreas Baumgarten	walk outside
15:15-15:45	Summary and feedback from break out groups	A/E.59
15:45-16:00	1-minute poster pitches	A/E.59
16:00-18:00	Poster session	

Time of the workshop

The workshop will start on Wednesday, 1st March 2017 at 9.00 and is expected to finish around 18.00 the same day. Please arrive in time, so the workshop can be kept to the schedule.

Venue of the meeting

The meeting will take place in the facilities of AGES (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety), Spargelfeldstrasse 191, A-1220 Vienna, AUSTRIA

AGES website: <https://www.ages.at/en/healthy-life-for-humans-animals-and-plants/>

Venue: <http://www.ages.at/en/ages/locations/vienna/>

The meeting room is big enough for at least 50 persons and will be equipped with the necessary tools facilitating the event, such as a beamer and a portable computer. There will be also free access to the internet (Wi-Fi) throughout the workshop.

Accommodation

Participants can chose our closest hotel “Hotel Breitenlee” which is literally across the street, or to stay closer to the city center. Vienna’s public transport system is one of the best in the world, both venue and the city can be easily reached by bus and underground respectively. Rooms for the participants have been provisionally booked at the negotiated price (breakfast and free Wi-Fi access included):

Single room: Euro 59,00 (if you only stay for one night), 54,00 (at least two nights stay)

Double room: Euro 80,00

Deadline for booking: 20.2.2017

We would kindly ask the participants to make a reservation by contacting the hotel reception (service@hotel-breitenlee.at) as early as possible, latest by 20.2.2017. When making the reservation, the participants should use the reservation forms attached and mention the reservation password “AGES – Tea Bag Index Workshop” in order to benefit from the negotiated price.

Workshop fee

A registration fee of **30 €** is kindly asked to be paid by the participants upon arrival to AGES. **Please note the fee can only be paid by debit or credits cards.** The fee covers lunch, coffee breaks, poster session refreshments and technical support.

Arrival and transportation to the hotel / the venue

Being located in the centre of Europe, Vienna is easy to reach by plane and/or train. The direct flight time from any European capital to Vienna does not exceed 3 hours.

Details of all possible connections can be found here:

Vienna international airport

<http://www.viennaairport.com/en/passengers>

Vienna International Airport is connected to the City Centre with a minimum transfer time of 16-25 minutes (by City Airport Train, public train or taxi). Please allow more time during rush hour, and for reaching AGES.

Fees:

- by City Airport Train (CAT) – single ticket 11 EUR (return ticket 17 EUR)

<https://www.cityairporttrain.com/en/home>

- by Taxi: ca. 40 EUR from airport to city centre (ask for airport taxi fee!!)
- by [Public transport](#) (public train S7)

2 zones: 4.40 EUR

Vienna occupies a hub position in Europe's international **rail network**. Intercity and international express trains connect the capital with all parts of Austria and with all major cities in Europe.

- Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB)

<http://www.oebb.at/en>

For **local transport** the modern and efficient network of the Vienna public transport system with its 5 underground lines, 29 tram routes, 107 bus routes and 20 night buses with short waiting times can be used as safe and environmentally friendly option.

- Vienna Public Transport (Wiener Linien)

<http://www.wienerlinien.at/eportal3/>

e.g. 72 Hour ticket 16.50 €

The venue is located by bus stop "Breitenleer Strasse/Spargelfedstrasse" on the lane 24A that leaves from U1 station Kagraner Platz.

Other practical information

Currency: 1 EURO (€). National currencies can be exchanged in a number of private exchange offices or in banks. ATMs are commonly available and accept most of commonly used payment or credit cards.

Time zone: Central European Time Zone

Visas: no visa is required for EU citizens. In case of non-Schengen countries a passport or any other ID would be required by border services. For other countries – please check the information on: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entry-and-residence-in-austria/entry-and-visa/>

Expected weather conditions: Normally March there should be a couple of plus degrees, but please check the relevant weather portals to be adequately prepared, e.g.: <http://wetter.orf.at/wien/>

Important phone numbers: Country code for Austria +43; European Emergency Number: 112, Taru Sandén: +436606203519.

Austrian Citizen Science Conference

If you are hungry for more exciting science, stay in Vienna for the rest of the week too, and participate in the 3rd Austrian Citizen Science Conference! The conference will be organised in the same location than the TBI workshop. The lectures will take place 2-3.3.2017. On Saturday, 4.3.2017, the natural history museum will open its doors to fifteen interactive citizen science stations, and the conference organising committee is hoping to get the general public excited about a wide selection of research opportunities. The registration is open until 15.2.2017. For more information:

<https://www.ages.at/expandinghorizons/>

Useful links

<http://www.austria.info/uk> - official promotional website of Austria

<https://www.wien.info/en> - the city of Vienna



Fig.: Map of Vienna public transport (only fast connections shown, bus to AGES goes from U1 stop Kagraner Platz)