



2nd International Tea Bag Index Workshop

01.03.2017

The purpose of the 2nd International Tea Bag Index workshop is to improve the understanding and application of the Tea Bag Index (TBI) in ecological studies and to build a community for advanced data generation, method development and knowledge exchange.

The Tea Bag Index (TBI) is a standardized method to measure organic matter decomposition rates in soil. It is a simple and cheap method to measure decay rate of plant material by using tea, as a standard material. The method consists of burying tea bags with Green tea and Rooibos and digging them up three months later. In this period, the tea will decay, and will therefore show what will happen with normal plant material in the soil. It has already been used in many ecosystems ranging from tropical forests to temperate lakes.

The scientific value of this new method has been acknowledged through publications and experiments are currently running in countries all over the world. Many school children and other citizen scientists joined. As TBI team, consisting of researchers from the University of Utrecht, Umeå University, The Netherlands Institute of Ecology and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, we envision that TBI can be used as reference material in scientific decomposition experiments which will result in a global soil map of decomposition. Such a map would improve global climate models that use these maps.

Organisers: AGES – *Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety* –
Taru Sandén, Christoph Unger, Friedrich Polesny, in cooperation with the Tea Bag Index team

Location: AGES, Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna, Austria

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Abstract submission before 30.11.2016

Registration closes 15.2.2017

Preliminary program

Itinerary		
08:45-09:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee	
09:00-09:10	Welcome by AGES	AGES
09:10-09:40	The TBI method and its implications and limitations	TBI team
09:40-09:55	Where are we now?	TBI team
09:55-10:10	Where do we want to go?	TBI team
09:55-10:10	Tea/Coffee	
10:10-10:40	Keynote	t.b.a.
10:40-12:40	<i>Global usage of Tea Bag Index</i>	Abstract submission
12:40-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	<i>Break out groups</i>	TBI team
15:30-16:00	Summary and feedback from break out groups	
16:00-16:30	Visit to AGES Lysimeter station	AGES
16:30-18:30	Poster session	Abstract submission