



International Conference
Humus forms and biologically active compounds as indicators of pedodiversity
27–28 August 2012, at Conference centre “Dorpat”, Tartu, Estonia



Introduction into the topic of the Tartu conference on humus forms

The soil cover and its diversity is basically the heritage of the geological and hydrological diversity of the area. The upper part of the soil cover, the humus cover, is always more or less influenced by the flux of falling plant debris on or into the soil. Its transformation into humus forms (or types of humus cover or humus profiles) depends on the soil type and the composition of the plant cover and is mainly performed through the activity of soil organisms. The variegated fabric of the humus cover reflects the variety of influences. Therefore, humus forms are useful indicators of the effect of multiple environmental factors and the functioning of ecosystems. The interrelationships between humus forms and biologically active compounds of soils will be addressed at the conference.

The conference is focusing primarily on researches done under pedo-climatic conditions of Northern and Central Europe. Studies cover a wide range of land uses (arable, forest, grasslands), soil types (from mineral to organic soils), soil properties (texture, moisture regime, acidity, calcareousness and others) and biochemical processes and substances.

The public part of the conference will start at 10 a.m. of 27 August 2012 at the Conference centre „Dorpat“ (Soola Str. 6, Tartu). After the opening two keynote talks will be presented: (1) Prof. Gabriele Broll (University of Osnabrueck, Germany) speaks about humus forms and topsoil classification, and (2) Prof. Lech W. Szajdak (Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Poznan, Poland) speaks about the effectiveness of simultaneous chemical and physical analyses as tool for the understanding of processes and mechanisms in soils.

Following the keynote talks, three sessions with altogether 9 oral presentations and one poster session (16 posters) will be held. The detailed conference schedule with the list of titles and authors of presentations will be available at the secretary desk and on the conference [web-site](#).

The scientific excursion on the second day (28.08.2012) of the conference is limited to participants who have registered in advance. The main aim of it is to get acquainted with humus forms of two forest ecosystems (pine forest and spruce forest). En route a general overview about local landscapes, soil cover and land use will be given. Emajõe mires protecting centre will be visited. The excursion will end with barge trip on the river Emajõgi.

Abstracts of accepted oral and poster presentations are published in the Book of abstracts. The materials of oral presentations and posters will be available after the conference on web-site. The selected presentations will be published as full papers in a special issue of the Estonian Journal of Ecology (<http://www.kirj.ee/ecology>). Authors should inform about their intention to submit a manuscript during the conference at the latest. The submitted manuscripts should meet the requirements of the journal given to its authors (<http://www.kirj.ee/11344>). Manuscripts can be given to R. Kõlli during the conference or can be submitted electronically by e-mail (raimo.kolli@emu.ee) not later than 15 September 2012.

The conference is held on the occasion of 10th anniversary of scientific collaboration between the Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment of Polish Academy of Science and the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry of Estonian University of Life Sciences on research of soil organic matter. The official language of the conference is English.

Organizers of the conference:

- Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, Estonian University of Life Sciences
- Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznan
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tallinn (Estonia)
- Organizing committee: Alar Astover (chairman), Karin Kauer (secretary), Tõnu Tõnutare, Helis Rossner, Liia Kukk, Kaire Rannik, Indrek Tamm
- Scientific committee: Raimo Kõlli (Estonia, Tartu), Lech Szajdak (Poland, Poznan), Ulfert Graefe (Germany, Hamburg), Alar Astover (Estonia, Tartu)

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