

## Ugebrev 9 - den 2. august 2009

Things could be worse; at least we have had two really sunny days (out of twelve) since our arrival at Zackenberg.

But the top of Aucellabjerg is once again covered by a dense blanket of clouds swapped in from the North. Yesterday, we went to the upper slopes of Aucellabjerg trying to work on our highest plots, but heavy storms soon forced us back to the station.

Our plan was to do some additional vegetation recordings – we are from the Austrian vegetation and soil team (aka GLORIA), but only Clemens was able (and willing!) to carry out some measurements of soil moisture and to take some soil samples home to the lab. He is certainly the toughest one in our group; all my efforts were concentrated on not being blown off by the storm.

Tomas and Gergely had a really good time climbing Zackenbergfjeldet, which was much longer free of clouds than Aucellabjerg. They were very delighted to see some other habitats of their little friends - wasps, moths and butterflies. Although Gergely was lost for some time in the fog, they both managed to return to the station in the evening for dinner. Julie was the last one to return; she was working on the other side of Zackenbergelven and came home rather late in the evening – like Tomas and Gergely via the boat-bridge.

Philip and most unfortunate for us, Lone, our cook, got stuck at Daneborg because of the rough weather. Yesterday the supply ship arrived, so Philip, Tower and Lone set out in the morning to help unload the ship. Tower is still in Daneborg, but the other two returned, at last.

Other news from the area: The legendary POF Twin Otter broke one of its landing wheels at a landing somewhere south of Zackenberg. The Twin Otter has been repaired and is back in the air again, working in all kinds of weathers. Just like us!

Birger is happy to have checked three out of four climate stations – the one on Aucellabjerg is still missing. Jens and Gösta, who joined us last Tuesday, spent some successful days in the field looking for their bugs *Nysius groenlandicus* or were otherwise, seen sitting in house no. 1 working on their computers, i.e. Gösta's population models. Jannik just started another field experiment on the survival probability of electronic devices in the Arctic, leaving his radio on top of Aucellabjerg.

Thanks to Lone for cheering us up with an excellent variety of dishes. Thanks to the logistics Philip, Spanggård and Tower who keep us and the houses warm, take care of the water and energy supply - electricity to run our computers and the coffee machine, and above all enough hot water for the shower after a long day's fieldwork.

Danke schön!

Siegrun  
on behalf of Christian and Clemens,  
the Austrian Vegmon/GLORIA and soil team