

PHD DEFENCE

SUSANA SILVA SANTOS

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2016 AT 10:00



Disentangling soil protists diversity and interactions

Soil protists are small unicellular eukaryotes that live in the water films of soil. They are highly diverse members of the soil food web and their ecological importance is commonly being accepted, however detailed knowledge on a wide range of species, the community compositions and taxon-specific ecological functions is largely missing.

During her studies, Susana S. Santos investigated the biodiversity of soil protists, their interaction with soil microbes and their importance in specific soil ecosystem services. By conducting both field studies and laboratory experiments, using molecular tools such as high throughput sequencing technologies (HTS), she demonstrated that the methodology adopted can greatly influence the protist taxa that are detected by molecular techniques.

Additionally, the findings of this research contributed to the understanding of soil protist diversity, their main environmental drivers, their interactions and their relationships with specific ecosystem services.

The PhD degree was completed at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Science and Technology, Aarhus University (Roskilde).

Time: Friday 15 April 2016 at 10:00

Place: K1.36, AU Roskilde EAST, Dep. of Environmental Science, Aarhus University, Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde

Title of dissertation:

“The impact of protists diversity and their interaction with bacteria on soil ecosystem services”

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Members of the assessment committee:

Dr. Enrique Lara, Laboratory of soil biology, Institute of biology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
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Senior Researcher Kai Bester, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University (chair).

Main supervisor: Anne Winding, senior researcher at Environmental Sciences, Aarhus University-Roskilde, Denmark.

Co-supervisor:

Michael Bonkowski, Professor at Dept. of Ecology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Cologne, Germany.

Language: The PhD dissertation will be defended in English.

The defence is public.

The dissertation is available for reading at the Graduate School of Science and Technology/GSST, Ny Munkegade 120, building 1520, room 128-134, 8000 Aarhus C.