

Diary 6 – 20 July 2013

It is my last day at Zackenberg and I cannot believe how fast these three weeks have gone. This week has been a very busy one. The last plane saw only one person leave and six people arrive so we have a very full house with people here all working on different projects, from methane fluxes to spider predation to decomposing litter.

We had some days with really good weather, so everyone has taken advantage to have long days in the field. We had one day that saw temperatures rise to 15 degrees! Making a nice change from the bad weather, we had the week before.

I have been collecting samples in streams, and as this is a particularly dry year there have not been as many streams to sample, as I would have liked! Last Thursday Kim and I crossed over to the other side of the river by boat to see if there were any streams still flowing over there. Luckily, there were and we had a full 12 hours collecting samples as the boat can only travel at high tide. We also found the time to visit the old Zackenberg trapping station.

On Sunday, along with Ulrika, Katja, Hans and Michael, we decided to have a trip to Kuhn Passet, where there are well-preserved fossils. We got up early, walked the 7km to the site and then, with only 500m to go, we found ourselves in heavy fog with little visibility. So we had to turn back without having seen any fossils. We did see a couple of stones that had been weathered to a perfectly round position. Even though we did not see any fossils, we still all enjoyed the day trip. Hans and Michael were able to collect some moss samples, and I took advantage to collect some measurements from a few new streams, so all in all it was still a good day!

So now, it is time for me to leave. I have had a great time at Zackenberg and I am already looking forward to coming back next year.

Catherine Docherty,
The University of Birmingham, UK