

## **UArctic Thematic Network on Herbivory – facilitating research across scales**

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The UArctic Thematic Network on Herbivory (<http://herbivory.lbhi.is>) is an international research network that brings together scientists from Arctic and alpine regions to investigate the role of herbivores in these changing ecosystems. Herbivores are central to the functioning of tundra ecosystems, through their effects on biodiversity, energy flows and nutrient cycling, and can influence their resilience to ongoing environmental changes. However, the outcomes of plant-herbivore interactions vary over space and time, leading to different impacts of herbivory depending on where and when the interaction happens. The causes of this are presumably related to ecosystem-specific conditions, such as human management, variations in geological substrate or productivity. To accurately forecast the future of tundra ecosystems under changing environmental conditions, we need to understand the drivers of the spatial and temporal variation that influence the outcomes of plant-herbivore interactions. Effectively addressing these questions at a global scale requires coordinated research efforts. The Herbivory Network was endorsed by UArctic as a Thematic Network in 2020. The Thematic Network on Herbivory, with partners from eleven UArctic universities and more than 200 members, coordinates research to address these questions across the Arctic. Recent collaborations have explored how biotic and abiotic processes mediate patterns of herbivore diversity in the Arctic, quantified background invertebrate herbivory across the tundra biome, and synthesized the evidence base of herbivory studies in the Arctic. The implementation of these collaborative research efforts will improve our understanding of traditional human-managed systems that encompass significant portions of the sub-Arctic and alpine areas worldwide.