Project acronym: ezDowels

Project title: MycoPins - scaling up molecular monitoring of boreal soil and wood

Project leader: Dmitry Schigel, University of Helsinki, Finland

Discipline: Earth Sciences & Environment: Ecosystems & Biodiversity

Station(s): Oulanka Research Station (Finland)

In the context of molecular research of fungal communities in wood and soil, together with my colleagues from the Kean University, USA, we have been developing a new method to study and monitor patterns and process of fungal colonization in boreal forest. Thanks to the INTERACT funding, we have been able to set the pilot study at the Oulanka Research Station in Finland in 2022. We have submitted the manuscript on our research method to a peer reviewed journal and we will be happy to share it with you once it is out. At the heart of this non-invasive method is a placement of sterile pins (10 x 50 mm) made of native wood in a temporary transect; wooden pins are then removed at regular time intervals for metabarcoding analyzes of fungal colonization by the local species from the upper soil littler. Thanks to a suggestion from the Oulanka director Dr. Riku Paavola, we were able to add inclusion / exclusion of reindeer impact on wood fungal colonization into the study setup. We aim to expand our work in time and in space.