



UARctic
Thematic Networks

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Herbivory

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Year 2025: Collaborative Priorities, TExNet Growth, and New Project Support

In 2025, members of the UARctic Thematic Network (TN) on Herbivory joined forces to identify research priorities for Arctic herbivory over the coming decade. This effort took the form of a horizon scan that combined two extensive online surveys within the research community with an in-person workshop. The resulting synthesis provides a roadmap for future research and collaboration and contributes to the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV). The results were published as an open-access article in the journal *Arctic Science*.

Members of the TN on Herbivory also continued developing the Tundra Exclusion Network (TExNet), a coordinated research initiative aimed at understanding how herbivore diversity shapes the functioning of tundra ecosystems. In 2025, two new experimental sites were established in West Greenland with support from the 2024 UARctic funding. In addition, a workshop held in Nuuk in March 2025 brought researchers together to compile and begin analysing the first dataset on plant and herbivore communities collected across 26 TExNet sites throughout the Arctic.

To support its ongoing research activities, the TN on Herbivory submitted several funding applications. Among them was the project *Understanding diet composition and quality of tundra herbivores (TUNDRAdiet)*, successfully funded by the Icelandic Research Fund for the next three years.

TExNet Progress and Conference Sessions in 2026

Work on the TExNet project will continue in 2026, including a one-day workshop in Gothenburg in March 2026. The TN on Herbivory will also organize a session at the UARctic Congress in the Faroe Islands in May 2026, in collaboration with the TN on Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring. In addition, the network will be represented at the joint conference of the Nordic Society Oikos and the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ) in September 2026, where it will host a session titled *Managing herbivory in a changing Arctic*.

- **Publication:** *Emerging priorities in terrestrial herbivory research in the Arctic*
- **Workshop:** TExNet Workshop held in Nuuk to initiate first dataset analysis
- **Research:** two experimental TExNet sites established in West Greenland



Juvenile Svalbard reindeer looking for food in early Spring.
(Photo: Jennifer Forbey)

Advancing Knowledge and Cooperation in Arctic Herbivory

Through its activities, the UARctic TN on Herbivory aims to strengthen collaboration among researchers studying herbivory across the Arctic and to advance a coordinated research agenda on the role of herbivores in rapidly changing tundra ecosystems. The TN on Herbivory welcomes new members (currently there are 13 UARctic member institutions, including more than 200 members) and maintains an active website for exchanging and sharing information.

Initiatives such as the horizon scan and the Tundra Exclusion Network (TExNet) contribute to building shared datasets, common research approaches, and long-term partnerships across institutions and countries.

The network also places strong emphasis on supporting early-career researchers by providing opportunities for training, networking, and hands-on field experience within international research teams. By fostering collaboration and developing new knowledge on Arctic herbivory, these activities will help improve our understanding of ecosystem change in the Arctic and support future research and management efforts in the region.

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<https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/herbivory/>

