

Botanical Research on Svalbard; Historical Perspective and Future Directions.

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The archipelago of Svalbard in the High Arctic was once considered remote and inaccessible, and those unfortunate people forced to overwinter were not expected to survive. The development of whaling, hunting and mineral exploration increased the number of visits as well as knowledge about both coastal and inland areas on Svalbard. In this presentation I describe the changing methodology for collection of botanical information, from simple species list making to complex manipulative experiments. I present the facilities available and the direction of future Norwegian botanical research.