

## Excursion to Praxmar and Mieming 25-10-23

Two days after the excursion to Stubaital, a larger group, from the 'Future Mountain Forests' research project, including two dogs this time, visited the field sites at Praxmar and Mieming. Driving out of the Inn valley with the fully packed electric university bus, we ascended through the cloud to emerge in sunshine in Praxmar, giving us beautiful views through the shifting clouds.



Here we met Professor Stefan Mayr who showed us around and gave us some information about the sites and the projects run here. Out in the forest, we looked at a tree that had been infected with a Rhododendron rust and discussed how the pathogen spreads and the possible mechanisms for immunity in the population. We then returned to the forestry hut owned by the University, where Professor Mayr showed us the experimental plots that have been used for snow removal simulations and the rust resistant clones, as well as the plot that will be burnt next year as part of [Zhiyi's](#) research into wildfires.



From left to right: Judith, Laura, Markus, Anna, Jakub (visiting Erasmus student), Alex, Moritz, Ilse at Praxmar.

After lunch in the sunshine, we headed to the field site in Mieming. The forest here is notably different to those we saw in both Stubai and Praxmar. On the southern facing aspect, the soil is much thinner which stunts the growth of the Scots Pine trees, resulting in a much lower canopy. Dr Albin Hammerle demonstrated the various measuring instruments around the site, including Eddy covariance, chlorophyll measures that [Anna](#) uses in her study, point dendrometers, sap flux measures, and climate instruments. The group then climbed to the top of the measurement platform and where we could admire more of the instruments used here and the amazing view.



The group on the walk-up tower at Mieming.

What both excursions to all three of the sites showed us is the diversity in data collection and the individual challenges met at each of the different locations. There is so much potential for exploring the wealth of data already available, as well as finding new innovative ways to understand and measure these complex systems. We are eager to work on the Future of Mountain Forest project and look forward to contribute to this interesting and important research area.

Text: Laura and Anna

Pictures: Irmgard and Anna