

Activity Report

Title of the Seminar: **Plant Life in Antarctica: Antarctica as a crucible for Astrobiology: Story of Bryum bharatiense, India's discovery in Antarctica**

Dates: 22/08/2021



SHYAMPUR SIDDHESWARI MAHAVIDYALAYA
SHYAMPUR, HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL



National Webinar
on
Plant Life in Antarctica
Organized by
Department of Botany and IQAC
In association with
Young Academy of India

Speaker :
Dr. Felix Bast
Associate Professor and Head,
Department of Botany,
Central University of Punjab

Date, Time
22nd August, 2021, 10 A.M to 11 A.M

Click the Link below to
Register:
<https://forms.gle/e87W2cXnSPLyEx2z8>



**Title: Antarctica as a crucible for
Astrobiology: Story of Bryum bharatiense,
India's discovery in Antarctica**

Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Satarupa Dey (Convenor, HOD, Dept. of Botany)

Members:

- Ms. Rituparna Roy Chowdhury (SACT, Dept. of Botany)
- Ms. Sathi Seth (SACT, Dept. of Botany)

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Patron:

- Dr. S.K. Bose, Principal, Shyampur Siddheswari Mahavidyalaya

IQAC coordinator:

- Shri Rajarshi Mukherjee , Department of English

A one day online webinar was arranged on the topic “Plant Life in Antarctica”. This webinar was organized by the Department of Botany and IQAC in association with Young Academy of India. The speaker was Dr. Felix Bast, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Central University of Punjab. Dr Felix Bast is an author, public educator and Associate Professor based at Central University of Punjab (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India), Bathinda, Punjab, India. He along with his team at Central University of Punjab have discovered several new species which includes a species of moss from Antarctica (featured in BBC News)- the first plant species discovery in 40 years of Indian Antarctic Mission, and five new species of marine macroalgae from different parts of India. The topic of the talk was “Antarctica as a crucible for Astrobiology: Story of Bryum bharatiense, India's discovery in Antarctica” which highlighted his discovery. A total of 280 participants from all over India and abroad registered for the programme. Few participants were from countries like Pakistan, Srilanka, and Philippines. This webinar also received excellent feedback from the participants.