

NEOTOMA WORKSHOP ON TESTATE AMOEBAE

Poznań, Poland | 4-day workshop

16–19 August 2026

Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań Branch
Pałac Działyńskich, Stary Rynek 78/79, 61-772 Poznań

The Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań Branch, is located in [Pałac Działyńskich, Stary Rynek 78/79](#), on the western side of the Old Market Square.

Day 1 – 16 August | Welcome and Networking

16:00–17:00 | Registration

Registration will take place at the [Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, Adam Mickiewicz University](#), at ul. Bogumiła Krygowskiego 10, on the UAM Morasko Campus. (It will be possible to collect materials the next day)

From the city centre, take PST tram **12, 14, 15, or 16** towards **Osiedle Sobieskiego**. Then take bus **198 or 348** to “**UAM Wydział Geografii**.”

17:00–17:30 | Transfer to the evening venue

17:30–20:00 | Icebreaker

Venue: [Piwna Stopa](#) ([Google Maps](#))

Day 2 – 17 August | Conceptual Foundations and Testate Amoebae Data

Venue: [Polish Academy of Sciences, Pałac Działyńskich, Stary Rynek 78/79, 61-772 Poznań](#)

08:30–10:30 | Welcome, Scope and Scientific Context

- 08:30–08:45 – Welcome and introduction: Mariusz Lamentowicz and Monika Karpińska-Kotaczek
- 08:45–09:15 – Keynote: Petr Kuneš
Neotoma and PalaeOpen initiatives
- 09:15–10:15 – Keynote: Robert Booth
State of testate amoebae datasets: from site-level counts to synthesis
- 10:15–10:30 – Workshop objectives and introductory discussion:

10:30–11:00 | Coffee break

11:00–12:00 | Testate Amoebae: Concepts, Taxonomy and Traits

- Keynote: Edward A.D. Mitchell
Testate amoeba taxonomy and database challenges

12:00–12:30 | Moderated discussion and questions

12:30–13:30 | Lunch

13:30–16:15 | Data Compilation and Metadata – Breakout Groups

- Identification and extraction of datasets
 - scientific literature
 - theses, reports and grey literature
 - unpublished and legacy datasets
- Definition of inclusion criteria:
 - sample resolution
 - chronology and age–depth information
 - environmental and site metadata
 - lakes versus peatlands
- Assessment of spatial and temporal coverage:
 - European versus global datasets
 - modern calibration datasets versus palaeo-records
- Identification of data gaps and priorities

16:15–16:30 | Coffee break

16:30–17:30 | Breakout Group Reporting, Synthesis and Protocol Development

Day 3 – 18 August | Neotoma Tools and Data Input

Venue: [Polish Academy of Sciences, Pałac Działyńskich, Stary Rynek 78/79, 61-772 Poznań](#)

09:00–11:00 | Practical Exercises with the Neotoma Database

Leaders: Robert K. Booth and Petr Kuneš

- Neotoma structure and philosophy
- testate amoebae data model
- required metadata:
 - sites
 - samples
 - chronology
 - taxonomy
- common pitfalls and best practices in data submission

11:00–11:30 | Coffee break

11:30–13:00 | Practical Data Workflows

Leaders: Petr Kuneš and Robert K. Booth

Parallel or joint sessions depending on participants' experience.

- Tilia-based workflows
- data formatting
- taxon tables
- metadata preparation

13:00–14:00 | Lunch

14:00–16:00 | Hands-on Session: Tilia (and R)

- data import and validation
- taxonomic harmonisation
- preparation of data for Neotoma
- practical work with selected example datasets

16:00–16:30 | Coffee break

16:30–18:00 | Conclusions and Next Steps

- summary of key outcomes
- agreed actions and milestones
- publication and synthesis opportunities
- links to future COST, ERC and international initiatives
- coordinated strategy for compiling testate amoebae data
- taxonomic reference lists and harmonisation protocols
- workflow for uploading data to Neotoma
- roles, responsibilities, timelines and collaboration model

Day 4 – 19 August | Field Trip: Peatlands of the Wielkopolska Region

Starting point: [Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences](#), Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

From the city centre, take PST tram **12, 14, 15, or 16** towards **Osiedle Sobieskiego**. Then take bus **198 or 348** to “**UAM Wydział Geografii.**”

08:45–9:00 | Meeting, organisational briefing and boarding

9:00–17:00 | Field trip

Proposed sites:

- Rzecin;

- Między;
- Wetlands of Zielonka Forest:
 - Głęboć;
 - Trojanka.

TOPICS and PROBLEMS presented/discussed:

1. Perfect TA field sampling approach,
2. Testate amoebae-based quantitative palaeoecological reconstructions,
3. Experimental warming site: methods and questions,
4. GHG fluxes monitoring,
5. Land-use change and peatlands development: combining multiple proxies.

Lunch: scheduled meal stop during the field trip; take your own snacks and water

Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear, e.g. rubber boots, and be prepared for field conditions, including wet terrain in peatland areas.

Organising committee:

Monika Karpińska-Kotłaczek

Mariusz Bąk

Daria Wochal

Mariusz Lamentowicz



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