

## ALTAI MOUNTAINS AND ISAM RULES

As the president of the Symposium I am delighted to invite mycologists worldwide to the 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Arctic and Alpine Mycology, which will be held in Gorno-Altaiisk town and Aktash village, Altay Mountains (Altai Republic, Russia).

*Anton Shiryaev*

The research area is located at the intersection of four national borders: Russia, Mongolia, China and Kazakhstan. World knows the name of this place as Golden Mountains of Altai and it is included in the World Heritage list of UNESCO (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>).

Due to its geographical location - in the center of Eurasia - the nature of the Alpine zone of Altai is an amazing mixture of species typical to the mountain tundra of the Himalayas and Tien Shan, Central Siberia. Moreover, many European species are growing here, in their easternmost location. At the same time, many species are common for the entire Arctic-Alpine belt of Eurasia.

Traditionally, for the mycologist, the tundra is a wet, humid place with low temperatures. Vegetation and mycobiota are adapted for development on permafrost soils. In Altai, such mountain tundra is widespread. But there is also its own important specificity. In the center of Eurasia, under ultracontinental climate, the alpine nature undergoes significant transformations. In the Altai highlands near glaciers, over permafrost soils, not only tundra vegetation and mycobiota develop, but also steppe, which is determined by historical factors and the current climate. A comprehensive study of the flora and soils of high Altai allowed a group of specialists to establish that Altai is one of the regions of the planet where untouched tundra-steppe landscapes are still preserved ([Chytrý et al., 2019](#)). Similar vegetation is described in Beringia. Glacial tundra-steppes were most widespread in northern Eurasia during the Last Glaciation Maximum. In the Pleistocene tundra-steppes, the macro-fauna represented by mammoths and woolly rhinos was widespread (See the article at Boreas journal web-site:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/bor.12338>).

Dear mycologists, can you imagine what fungi are still preserved on the highlands of Altai?!

Organization committee believes that this is the best opportunity to provide new insights into Arctic and Alpine mycology.



## **ISAM rules**

*issued in 1984 at Fetan, Switzerland*

1. Invitations for the next assembly are considered and determined at each ISAM. The session should accept one invitation and indicate a second priority.
2. A representative of the inviting nation is selected as President for the next ISAM period. He/she has the responsibility for making all arrangements.
3. The ISAM is open only by invitation. Persons invited shall constitute a qualified group with broad expertise in Arcto-Alpine mycology. No past ISAM members may claim the privilege of an invitation.
4. It shall be the right of members of the last ISAM to suggest participants to the next assembly.
5. The President will draw up a list of potential participants from nations participating in arcto-alpine research in mycology, keeping in mind geographical distribution. He/she shall consult with previous presidents on matters of principle or major importance.
6. Definitive invitations shall be issued not later than nine months before the ISAM assembly.
7. If the President must cancel the arrangement, then he/she shall inform the two previous Presidents before definitive action is taken. He/she shall inform a representative of the nation that extended the second priority. The country in question shall then appoint a President who shall assume the above responsibilities.
8. ISAM members shall submit a relevant paper to be printed in a special ISAM publication in accordance with the decisions and arrangements made by the President. To facilitate this, the President may appoint an editorial committee.