

ALIEN - Advanced Life in Extreme Environments

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Life on Earth is set within a narrow frame of abiotic factors such as temperature, oxygen and water/salt availability. Some organisms, however, survive or thrive under conditions beyond this frame. One of the remarkable adaptations to extremes is cryptobiosis (latent life) – a state, which enables highly complex organisms to endure desiccation, freezing and journeys outside Earth's atmosphere. ALIEN (financed by the Danish Council for Independent Research) - uses tardigrades (water bears) as a model to gain new insight into unique adaptations to extreme environments. This is done through a detailed investigation of molecular and physiological mechanisms, involving e.g. experimental biology, advanced microscopy and genomics/transcriptomics



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Seminar room at zoophysiology