

MAd Land
Molecular Adaptation to Land: plant evolution to change

Annual meeting 2026

Göttingen, September 29th – October 2nd 2026

https://madland-meeting.de

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

DFG Priority Programme 2237
http://madland.science

Programme committee

Till Ischebeck	Münster
Andreas Hiltbrunner	Freiburg
Susann Wicke	Münster
Jan de Vries	Göttingen (coordinator 2st round)
Sabine Zachgo	Osnabrück

Scientific advisory board

Pierre-Marc Delaux	Toulouse, France
Liam Dolan	GMI, Vienna, Austria
Katie Field	Sheffield, UK (2nd round)
Jill Harrison	Bristol, UK

@watertoland.bsky.social **#MAdLand2026**

Programme

- All talks take place in the Adam-von-Trott Saal
- Coffee breaks are in the foyer
- TAC meetings can be held in the Taberna
- The Poster sessions take place in the Emmy-Noether-Saal
- Lunch and supper are located in the Hannah-Vogt-Saal and Emmy-Noether-Saal
- Best talk evaluations take place for ● PhDs and ● PostDocs.
- MAdLand members O
- MAdLand labs marked in green

Tuesday, September 29th

Approx. 16:00 Excursions: Forum Wissen *or* Algal Culture Collection *or* Old botanical garden

18:00 **Welcome reception (Forum Wissen)**

Wednesday, September 30th

7:30 – 8:30 *Breakfast at hotels*

08:30 Registration open (Alte Mensa)

09:15 **Welcome remarks (Jan de Vries)**

Session 1 (**09:30 – 10:30**)

Session 1; Chair: Jan de Vries

09:30 – 10:00 **Invited Talk 1: Hiroyuki Sekimoto (Tokyo, Japan),** 20+10 min
Introduction of the model unicellular zygnematophycean alga, Closterium peracerosum–strigosum–littorale complex

Short talk presentations, 12 + 3 min

10:00 Talk 1: James Walker (Ecker Lab, San Diego, US) – *Linking live-cell dynamics to single-cell molecular states across plant evolution*

10:15 Talk 2: Gisela Jinthana Hartmann (Schuller lab, Marburg) – *Cryo-Electron Tomography of streptophyte algae*

10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 2 (**11:00 – 12:30**)

Session 2; Chair: Deren Büyüktaş

11:00 Talk 3: Maria Dolores Lopez Bueno (Denninger lab, Munich) – *Evolution of novel RHO OF PLANTS signalling activators during the adaptation from water to land*

11:15 Talk 4: Zahin Mohd Ali (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Phytochrome mediated light signalling of Physcomitrium patens*

11:30 Talk 5: Alisha Alisha (Hiltbrunner lab, Freiburg) – *Investigating the role of FHY1 in phytochrome signaling in the moss Physcomitrium patens*

11:45 Talk 6: Daniel Heß (Hess lab, Freiburg) – *Inositol phosphates, pyrophosphates and the genes involved in their turnover in the streptophyte green alga Chara braunii*

12:00 Talk 7: Carolin Apel (Naumann/Abel lab, Halle) – *Terraphos – Exploring the Evolution of Phosphate Scouting During Plant Terrestrialization*

12:15 Talk 8: Cäcilia Kunz (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Conserved and divergent UV responses in Mesotaenium*

12:30 *Lunch*

Session 3 (**13:30 – 15:00**)

Session 3; Chair: Christin Naumann

13:30 – 15:00 **Workshop: Science Under Pressure: Authoritarian Dynamics, Disinformation, and How to Stay in a Constructive Dialogue** (factor-D Diversity Consulting GmbH, Vienna) 90 min

15:00 *Coffee break*

Session 4 (**15:30 – 18:00**)

Session 4; Chair: Alisha Alisha

15:30 – 16:00 **Invited Talk 2: Elvira Hörandl (Göttingen, Germany),** 20+10 min
The paradox of sex in plants

16:00 – 16:30 **Invited Talk 3: Miguel Blanquez (Valencia, Spain),** 20+10 min
Before gibberellins: the ancestral environmental regulation of DELLA activity

Short talk presentations, 12 + 3 min

16:30 Talk 9: Peter Szoevenyi (Szoevenyi lab, Zurich) – *Functional evidence suggests that the algal and hornwort carbon-concentrating mechanisms rely on functionally homologous set of genes*

16:45 Talk 10: Deren Büyüktaş (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Hornwort Abiotic Stress Responses and Their Evolutionary Link to Cyanobacteria*

17:00 Talk 11: Fay-Wei Li (Li lab, Durham NA, US) – *A plant-derived diterpenoid initiates symbiosis with N2-fixing cyanobacteria*

Optional 5 min break

17:15 Talk 12: Kim-Kristine Müller (Classen lab, Kiel) – *The evolution of pectins in cell walls of streptophytes – highly diverse or strongly conserved polysaccharides?*

17:30 Talk 13: Takashi Murata (Murata lab, Atsugi, Japan) – *Microtubules mediate post-cytokinetic cell wall synthesis in Closterium*

17:45 Talk 14: Barış Ballık (Herburger lab, Rostock) – *Tracing Cell Wall Polysaccharide Footprints during Desiccation in Zygnematophyceae and Marchantia*

18:00 – 19:30 *Dinner*

19:30 Poster session

21:00 *Get together*

Thursday, October 1st

7:30 – 9:00 *Breakfast at hotels*

Session 5 (**09:00 – 10:30**)

Session 5; Chair: Hengchi Chen

09:00 – 09:30 **Invited Talk 4: Laura Moody (Oxford, UK),** 20+10 min
Unravelling the origins of multidimensional growth in plants

Short talk presentations, 12 + 3 min

09:30 Talk 15: Deepti Varshney (Rensing lab, Freiburg) – *Inferring the Nature of the Most Recent Common Ancestor of Land Plants Through Gene Family Evolution and Reproducible Galaxy Workflow*

09:45 Talk 16: Merve Nida Bastürk (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Tracing endosymbiotic gene transfer (EGT) across photosynthetic eukaryotes*

10:00 Talk 17: Elena Sturm (Bucher & Becker lab, Cologne) – *Evolutionary links between nutrient starvation responses and arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis during plant terrestrialization*

10:15 Talk 18: Saskia Hiltemann (Rensing lab, Freiburg) – *DataPLANT ARCs: Towards FAIR Data Publications*

10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 6 (**11:00 – 12:30**)

Session 6; Chair: Kim-Kristine Müller

Short talk presentations, 12 + 3 min

11:00 Talk 19: Lea Marie Preuß (Ischebeck lab, Münster) – *Evolution of lipid droplet-associated proteins and their role in drought resistance*

11:15 Talk 20: Clinton Asare (Nakagami lab, Cologne) – *Unraveling the evolution of SA signaling pathway and NPR protein function using Marchantia polymorpha and Physcomitrium patens as research models*

11:30 Talk 21: Christine Kühn (Richter lab, Rostock) – *Metabolic sensing and high-light acclimation across the streptophyte lineage*

11:45 Talk 22: Linus Börnke (Fichtner lab, Düsseldorf) – *Sugar signalling and metabolism in Marchantia polymorpha*

12:00 Talk 23: Hannah Lepper (Fichtner lab, Düsseldorf) – *Trehalose 6-phosphate as an ancient sucrose specific signal shaping (land) plant evolution*

12:15 Talk 24: Mina Kazemianrouhi (Reumann lab, Hamburg) – *Investigating the assembly of peroxisome functions during plant terrestrialization (PeroxEvo)*

12:30 *Lunch*

Session 7 (**13:30 – 15:30**)

Session 7; Chair: Cäcilia Kunz

Short talk presentations, 12 + 3 min

13:30 Talk 25: Haruna Nomizo (Uchida lab, Nagoya, Japan) – *Cell division behavior of proliferative outermost cells during discoid thallus morphogenesis in Coleochaete scutata*

13:45 Talk 26: Elisa Goldbecker (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Core transcriptomic reponses of Zygnematophyceae to a gradient of terrestrial stressors*

14:00 Talk 27: Tim Ruder (Pfannschmidt lab, Hannover) – *A conserved geometric core defines the RNA polymerase ω-subunit family*

14:15 Talk 28: Norina Noor (Frank lab, München) – *Functional analysis of small RNA pathways in bryophytes*

Optional 5 min break

14:30 Talk 29: Nora Gutsche (Zachgo lab, Osnabrück) – *Analysis of developmental TGA transcription factor functions in Riccia fluitans, a reductively evolved liverwort, unveils divergent evolutionary TGA trajectories*

14:45 Talk 30: Aniya Azam Rakhi (Theißen lab, Jena) – *Determining the impact of tetramerization of Marchantia polymorpha MADS-domain transcription factor MpMADS2 on DNA-binding site recognition*

15:00 Talk 31: Chiara Kuhlmann (Schünemann lab, Bochum) – Adaptations of chloroplast protein transport mechanisms during land plant evolution

15:15 Talk 32: Hengchi Chen (de Vries lab, Göttingen) – *Polyploid cycle in land plants*

15:30 *Group Photo in front of Alte Mensa, Coffee break*

Session 8 (**16:00 – 17:00**)

Session 8; Chair: Jan de Vries

16:00 – 16:30 **Invited Talk 5: Liam Dolan (Vienna, Austria),** 20+10 min
Development of the Marchantia polymorpha sporeling

16:30 – 17:00 **Invited Talk 6: Pierre-Marc Delaux (Toulouse, France),** 20+10 min
Evolution of plant - microbe interactions at the water to land transition

17:00 **Wrap-up (Jan de Vries)**
Best talk & poster prizes
Final remarks

19:00 *Conference Dinner*

21:00 *Get together*

Thank you!

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