

The alpine flora of the granite summit of the Brocken



Geo bed granite

Granite is a coarsely crystalline, silicate-rich rock, which is pushed to the surface from great depth during the folding process of mountain formation. It is rich in quartz, feldspar and mica. The soils resulting from the weathering of granite are low in nutrients and acidic. Of the scattered granite deposits in Germany, the treeless summit of the Brocken with its alpine flora is one of the closest to Göttingen.

Photos:

- 1** Our granite bed is modelled on the vegetation of the summit of the Brocken, which at 1141 m elevation is the highest point in the Harz Mountains. Because of its harsh climate, it is naturally treeless and provides a habitat for plant species that otherwise occur at high elevations in the Alps or in Scandinavia. Photo: L. Köhler
- 2** When in full flower, the Brocken anemone (*Pulsatilla alpina* ssp. *alba*) is one of the most striking plant species of the Brocken summit. It is considered a characteristic species of the Brocken and often occurs together with heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and matgrass (*Nardus stricta*). Photo: L. Köhler
- 3** Two other rare alpine plants are the primeval-looking alpine clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum alpinum*) and northern firmoss (*Huperzia selago*). Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

