

Beverley Adams-Groom



Chief Palynologist and Pollen Forecaster

Institute of Science & the Environment

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Qualifications

BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Coventry)

Beverley has been working as a palynologist (study of pollen and other microscopic biological forms) for over 20 years and has experience of identifying pollen from all over the world. From 2005 until 2015 she was a practising forensic palynologist and worked on 35 high profile murder and sexual assault cases. She worked for several different forensic providers, including LGC Forensics and Cellmark Forensic and with many different police forces in England.

These days Beverley works on the pollen content analysis of honey for the UK's major honey packers. This is a form of forensic work as it involves checking that the country of origin is correct and that the honey has not been adulterated or contaminated.

She is also an aerobiologist – that is someone who studies the dispersal and deposition of pollen and spores in the air of the outdoor and indoor environments. The main application of this is to provide the UK and Ireland's pollen forecasts via the media and the Met Office.

Research

Beverley currently investigates pollen levels in surface soil, mainly for forensic palynology applications, and pollen types to be found in UK local honey. She is also interested in participating in projects that look at new methods of detecting pollen and spores, e.g. Next Generation Sequencing.

She is a member of the Aerobiology and Palynology Research Group, looking at pollen and spore dispersal and detection in the atmosphere and the enhancement of pollen forecasting methods.

Teaching

Although primarily a researcher, Beverley has been teaching at the University Of Worcester for about 15 years in a part-time capacity as well as supervising Independent Studies.

She teaches on two modules:

- 1 Infectious Agents and Allergens in Year 2
- 1 Biological indicators of crime in Year 3.

Professional Bodies

International Aerobiology Association

International Honey Association

Recent Publications

Adams-Groom B, Skjoth CA, Baker M & Welch T. 2017. Modelled and observed surface soil pollen deposition distance curves for isolated trees of *Carpinus betulus*, *Cedrus atlantica*, *Juglans nigra* and *Platanus acerifolia*. *Aerobiologia*, 33(3): 407-416

Adams-Groom B. Assessment of pollen assemblages on footwear for evidence of pollen deriving from a mock crime scene: a contribution to forensic palynology. *Grana*, DOI: 10.1080/00173134.2017.1310293

Khwarahm NR, Dash J, Skjoth CA, Newnham RM, **Adams-Groom B**, Caulton E & Atkinson PM. 2016. Mapping the birch and grass pollen seasons in the UK using satellite sensor time-series. *Science of the Total Environment*, 578: 586-600

Newsome N, **Adams-Groom B**. 2017. Seasonal variation in surface soil pollen taxa over twelve months in three English mature woodlands. *Grana*, 56(6): 377-385

Sadys M, **Adams-Groom B**, Herbert RJ & Kennedy R. Comparisons of fungal spore distributions using air sampling at Worcester, England (2006-2010). *Aerobiologia*, published online 30th March 2016. DOI 10.1007/s10453-016-9436-4

Skjoth CA, Bilinska D, Werner M, Malkiewicz M, **Adams-Groom B**, Kryza M & Drzeniecka-Osiadacz A. Footprint areas of pollen from alder (*Alnus*) and birch (*Betula*) in the UK (Worcester) and Poland (Wroclaw) during 2005-2014. *Acta Agrobotanica*, 68(4): 315-324 DOI: 10.5586/aa.2015.044

Skjoth, C.A, Werner M, Kryza M, **Adams-Groom B**, Wakeham A, Lewis M, Kennedy R. 2015. Quality of the Governing Temperature Variables in WRF in relation to Simulation of Primary Biological Aerosols. *Advances in Meteorology*. doi:10.1155/2015/412658

Hawkins J, d Vere N, Griffith A, Ford R, Allainguillaume J, Hegarty M, Baillie L, **Adams-Groom B**. 2015. Using DNA metabarcoding to identify the floral composition of honey: A new tool for investigating honey bee foraging preferences. *PLOS One*, DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0134735

Adams-Groom B. 2015. Frequency and abundance of pollen taxa in crime case samples from the United Kingdom, Grana, 54,2: 146-155

Skjoth, C.A., Baker, P., Sadys M., **Adams-Groom, B.** 2015. Pollen from alder (*Alnus* sp.), birch (*Betula* sp.) and oak (*Quercus* sp.) in the UK originate from small woodlands. *Urban Climate*, 14, 414-428

Fernández Rodríguez S, **Adams-Groom B**, Silva Palacios I, Caeiro E, Brandao R, Ferro R, Gonzalo Garijo Á, Smith M & Tormo Molina R. (2014). Comparison of Poaceae pollen counts recorded at sites in Portugal, Spain and the UK. *Aerobiologia*. Online: April 2014

Khwarahm N, Dash J, Atkinson P.M, Newnham R.M, Skjoth C.A, **Adams-Groom B**, Caulton E & Head K. 2014. Exploring the spatio-temporal relationship between two key aeroallergens and meteorological variables in the United Kingdom. *Int. J. Biomet.*, 58,4:529-545

Newnham RM, Sparks TH, Skjoth CA, Head K, **Adams-Groom B** & Smith M. 2013. Pollen season and climate: Is the timing of birch pollen release in the UK approaching its limit? *Int J Biometeorol.*, 57, 3: 391-400

Adams-Groom B. Forensic Palynology. In: Marquez-Grant N & Roberts J (Eds). 2012. *Forensic Ecology Handbook*. Wiley-Blackwell

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