

Curriculum vitae of Christian Körner

Prof. Dr. DDr h.c. Christian Körner (1949) is Austrian and Swiss citizen (CV updated: July 2026)
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1973-1977	Ph.D. Univ. Innsbruck, Austria with W. Larcher, part of IBP (Water relations of alpine plants).
1977-1980	Postdoc: Austrian MAB alpine program (alpine water cycle, hydrology).
1982-1989	Assistant Prof. Innsbruck, Austria (forest and alpine ecology, plant carbon relations)
1981, 1989	Postdoctoral fellow, Res School Biol Sci, ANU, Canberra, (tree water relations, isotopes)
1989-2014	Full Professor for Botany, University of Basel, Switzerland
2014-	Prof. emeritus, chair alpine research station ALPFOR (2008-)

General Research interest

- The influence of increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration on natural vegetation
- Forest carbon and water relations under global change
- Alpine plant ecology and biodiversity (see GMBA and ALPFOR)
- High elevation treeline research
- Various projects in bioclimatology and range limits of plant species

Memberships

- Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna)
- German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Halle)
- National Academy of India - Foreign Fellow
- Swiss Academy of Sciences – retired counsellor
- German, Swiss, British & American Botanical/Ecological Societies

National Committees

- Past president of ProClim (Forum for Climate and Global Change, SCnat)
- Past president of Swiss Forum Biodiversity (SCnat)

International Committees (examples, past and present*)

- Chair and SSC* of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) (2000-2014; 2014-*)
- Task leader, Global Change & Terr. Ecosys (GCTE) and SSC of IGBP for CO₂ effects (1998-2004)
- Convening Lead Author (CLA) Global Millenn Ecosys Assess (MA) Chap 24, Mountains (2002-2005)
- Science advisory board EASAC, Brussels/Halle a.S. (2009-2014)
- Reviewer /contributing author of IPCC (2005; 2020)
- Various advisory boards (e.g. Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt; EURAC, Bozen; Austrian National Park Hohe Tauern*; Czech Globe, Brno*)

Academic achievements

- Score: Research.com (2026) <https://research.com/university/university-of-basel>
Google Scholar (July 2026): 85'000 citations, h-index 144
Alpine Plant Life 7000 citations
- Advisory board/vice president of International Botanical Congresses (St Louis 1999, Vienna 2005, Shenzhen 2017)
- Co-author 'Strasburger' Botany textbook (founded 1894, 35-38th German, Ital., Span., Russ., Engl. eds)
- Plenary opening lecture of the International GCTE-LUCC Conference (Barcelona 1998)
- Plenary speaker for the millennial ESA/BES conference (Orlando, 2000)
- Tansley lecture of the British Ecological Society (London 2002)
- Private Royal Colloquium on alpine ecology, Swed. Acad. Sci, with the King of Sweden (2003)
- Plenary keynote 8th SBSTA /CBD Convention of Biodiversity (Montreal 2003)
- Plenary lecture, International Botanical Congress (Vienna 2005)
- Plenary lecture/opening session Earth System Science Partnership ESSP (Beijing 2006)
- Marsh Award, British Ecological Society for outstanding achievements in the science of ecology (2007)
- King Albert I Mountain Award for outstanding high elevation research with a global perspective (2010)
- Elected life time Foreign Honorary Member of the Ecological Society of America ESA (2013)
- Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology, Prize Jury (2012-2014)
- Dr. h.c. University of Innsbruck, Austria (2013), Dr. h.c. Ilia University Tbilisi, Georgia (2014)
- Honorary Member of the Basel Botanical Society (2014)
- The Gregor Johann Mendel Honorary Medal by the Czech Acad. Sci. (2022)
- Keynote lecture, World Life Science Conference, Hainan, China (2024)
- Honorary Medal GfÖ (Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland) (2024)
- Franz Leuthardt Preis der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Baselland (2025)
- Plenary opening lecture, EMBO conference, Palampur, India (2025)

Editorial boards

Oecologia (editorial board 1988-2014, editor-in chief 1998-2012); Frontiers in Functional Plant Ecology (editor-in-chief 2010-2015); Science Magazine (editorial board 2000-2004); Trends in Ecology and Evolution (editorial board 2000-2021); Global Change Biology (editorial board 1998-2011); Plant Ecology & Diversity (editorial board 2011-); GAIA (1996-2014); Alpine Botany (editorial board 2010-); Facultyof1000 (PubMed 2007-); Biologie in unserer Zeit (1990-)

Publications: >400 ISI papers, c. 85'000 citations in Google Scholar; 20 authored or edited books.

Major books: Alpine Plant Life (2003, 2021; Chinese transl. 2008, Georgian transl. 2008); (2012) Alpine Treelines (2012; Chinese transl. 2017); Plant Ecology (2021) in Strasburger Plant Sciences (2013 English, 2021 German, and earlier Italian and Russian translations) Springer-Nature (Heidelberg-Berlin-Cham)