

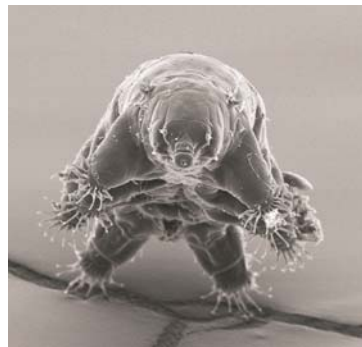


# Tardigrades

Dr Nadja Møbjerg

August Krogh Centre, Copenhagen University

Tardigrades are famous for their ability to thrive in habitats characterized by large fluctuations in abiotic factors. In response to such fluctuations they may enter a state of latent life, called cryptobiosis, and in this state endure complete desiccation, freezing and journeys outside Earth's protecting atmosphere. Despite recent year's intense research little is still known of the mechanisms that underlie the unique adaptations found among these minute metazoans. It has been proposed, and to a certain extent demonstrated, that cryptobiosis involves synthesis of protective biomolecules, yet a unifying theory explaining the phenomenon can still not be claimed. With the use of appropriate methodologies, future research on tardigrades will likely provide important clues to how complex metazoans survive extreme environments and include findings that potentially can be used in space sciences and biotechnology. I will provide an introduction to the tardigrades and an overview of our current research in the field.



Wednesday March 20th at 11.15  
Seminar room (building 1131)