

R/V METEOR

M174 "N-Amazon"

Las Palmas - Emden, 12.04. - 30.05.2021



1st Weekly Report

05. - 11.04.2021

Our journey to R/V METEOR was probably the longest ever; because it lasted from April 1 to April 10. Of course, it wasn't really a voyage in the sense that we were constantly moving around, but a preparation under pandemic conditions, as this doesn't stop even research at sea. From the USA, from Basel, Warnemünde and Bremen we drove to Oldenburg to the assembly point and then to a hotel somewhere in East Frisia. With relief, late on the first day, we were also able to welcome our Brazilian observer, who had inconceivably found his way to us. The quarantine of the 23 scientists was long, each one had to stay in his or her own room. But we actually grew together as a team during this time. We were well accommodated and the excellent internet enabled us to communicate constantly with daily on-line meetings, chat groups and conversations over the balconies. There were joint workouts, game nights, and even musical entertainment on the lawn or parking lot in front of our rooms. Service brought anything requested to our door from ice cream sundaes to fruit bowls to drinks in addition to regular meals. Quarantine could hardly be better spent. Nevertheless, we were all happy and excited when on Saturday morning, April 10, the relieving knock on the door allowed us to leave our rooms and head for the tour bus.

The adventure of flying as a quarantine group under the current conditions began at a small terminal at Cologne-Bonn airport, where everything went a little differently than usual. A shipping company representative met us. We were dressed in bright yellow so that everyone else could keep their distance and we could keep our cohesion. Our luggage was not checked in individually and personally, there were no boarding passes, because the allocation of seats had been done early and we had received this information together with the negative test result. There was only the usual security check of hand luggage and persons, then we went to the plane and actually took off to Las Palmas. Our relief and joy was hard to believe.

A very warm welcome from Captain Hammacher and some crew members and a midnight snack awaited us when we finally reached the RV Meteor by bus. We had been excellently accompanied by the shipping company and all steps through the "quarantine tunnel" were excellently organized. A big thank you to all involved for making it possible to embark on this journey.

The first working day on board was filled with unloading the containers and setting up the equipment. Numerous briefings and great helpfulness of the crew accompanied us. We will certainly not be completely ready on this day, but we are looking forward to calm seas and the first station awaits us in two days. It is a special Sunday for all of us.



Setup of the equipment in the laboratories

Link to the cruise blog: <https://www.io-warnemuende.de/rv-meteor-m174-2021.html>

On behalf of all cruise participants,

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