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## Diversity and Evolution of Fungi

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Fungi are a distinct, diverse, and ecologically important branch of the tree of life, in which these hardworking organisms play a vital role in ecosystems as diverse as soil, leaves, rocks, and pelagic zones of the ocean. Distinguished from plants by their heterotrophic nature, and distinct from animals by their external rather than internal digestion, fungi diverged from their sister kingdom the animals ~1.3 billion years ago. The hidden and microscopic nature of many fungi also means that their diversity is undersampled, and perhaps less than 5% of the estimated two to four million species have been formally described. Fungal genomes are easy to obtain, and fungi have served as models for genome evolution and the reconstruction of phylogenetic relationships using genome-scale data, in which groundbreaking comparative genomic studies that take advantage of these features have already been published. These pioneering studies are just the prelude to the period that is upon us now.



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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Diversity* (ISSN 1424-2818) is a scholarly journal that covers all areas of diversity research. Our distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor for publishing. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access.

We invite papers and reviews on multidisciplinary topics of diversity that bridge organismic diversity (systematics, biodiversity, phylogeny, population genetics, and evolution) and molecular diversity (phytochemistry and biophysics).

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