Special Issue

Diversity, Conservation, and Community Structure of Terrestrial Ground Animals

Message from the Guest Editor

To adapt to different habitats and to ensure their own survival, terrestrial ground animals have developed a wide range of morphological, physiological, and behavioral adaptations. These adaptations have led to the occupation of many ecological niches and contributed to the significant diversity of this group. At the same time, terrestrial ground animals play an important role in shaping the community structure of terrestrial ecosystems, as their species composition. functional roles, trophic interactions, and spatial distributions form the basis of ground-associated animal communities. Additionally, this group of animals is crucial for ecosystem functioning; however, these species and populations are increasingly threatened by various factors, primarily habitat destruction, fragmentation, and degradation, the impact of climate change, and the overexploitation of species. On the other hand, many species of terrestrial ground animals remain insufficiently studied and, consequently, the available data on their diversity, community structure, and conservation are often incomplete.

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