Special Issue

Ecology and Paleoecology of Atlantic and Caribbean Coral Reefs

Message from the Guest Editor

Atlantic and Caribbean coral reefs have a fascinating past, a rapidly changing present, and an uncertain future. Extending from the Abrolhos Bank off the eastern region of Brazil, north to Bermuda, coral reefs are found in suitable habitats across 50° of subtropical and tropical latitudes. Originally part of the circumtropical expanse of warm, carbonate provinces, connections to the Indo-Pacific via the Tethyan Seaway were closed in the Miocene. Later, connections to the Eastern Pacific were lost with the closure of the Panama Seaway in the Plio-Pleistocene. Isolation and environmental stresses have resulted in a much diminished diversity of many reef taxa, compared with the western Pacific, though some taxa have diversified in their more isolated regions. This Special Issue provides a platform to explore the unique characteristics of Atlantic Province reefs, including reef-building taxa, the diverse and fascinating invertebrate biota, and inter-relationships between reef habitats and taxa that feed the human inhabitants throughout the region. The goal is to compile a set of research papers that celebrates the unique characteristics of coral reefs of the Atlantic realm.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2025



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.1 CiteScore 4.0



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