Special Issue

Ecology and Management of Forest Insects in the Anthropocene

Message from the Guest Editors

Forests are ecosystems vulnerable to native and non-native pests that require adapted management strategies to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. In recent years, climate-driven range expansion of native forest pests has been rising in an unprecedented manner. Most of those invasions are causing significant economic and biodiversity losses, whereas they have often been unnoticed or even unknown in their native area. There is an urgent requirement for robust management practices to restore our forests from those devastating pests. It is also optimal to develop early detection tools for damaged trees. By contrast, beneficial insects also decline through human activities due to habitat loss, urbanization, non-native species, and climate change, leaving potential empty niches for raising pests or non-native species. Understanding species interactions, genetic diversity of pest insects or their ecology, or symbiosis with microbes are initial steps to develop more robust monitoring and management tools to restrict future biodiversity loss.

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