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Forest Succession and Leaf Litter Decomposition

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Message from the Guest Editors

Most of the world's forests are naturally regenerated secondary forests, and forest succession is a very important ecological process for these secondary forests in the future. Biodiversity generally increases during forest succession, which has been thought to be one of the major drivers of ecosystem functioning. Litter decomposition is a biogeochemical process fundamental to nutrient, carbon and energy cycling within forest ecosystems, influencing tree productivity, species composition and carbon storage. Litter functional traits are proposed to provide the most direct link between biodiversity and litter decomposition, the reason for which we consider functional traits to represent biodiversity in this Special Issue: Forest Succession and Leaf Litter Decomposition. This Special Issue aims to synthesize current understanding of biotic and abiotic factors affecting litter decomposition rates and carbon fluxes, to present recent research on litter decomposition and their effects on forest carbon cycling, and to illustrate how this knowledge could be translated into forest or carbon management strategies in the context of global change.



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Special Issue



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