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Epigenetic Variation: A Component of the Woody Plant Adaptation

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Message from the Guest Editors

Epigenetics refers to all molecular mechanisms that modify genome structure and/or activity without altering the DNA sequence. These changes may be heritable or non-heritable and result from chemical modifications such as DNA methylation, histone modifications, chromatin remodeling as well as other enzyme-driven changes (chromatin-modifying enzymes, signaling kinases). Non-coding RNA (ncRNA) molecules are also involved in regulating transcription at pre-transcriptional, transcriptional, and post-transcriptional levels.

In the last decades, a number of studies on epigenetic variation in plant species have documented environmentally driven effects on epigenetic variation which contribute to modulating stress response and plant growth plasticity. This study is particularly relevant as it showcases the potential role that epigenetic mechanisms may play in modulating rapid adaptive responses in long-lived woody species amidst increasingly changing environments.

This Special Issue “Epigenetic Variation: A Component of the Woody Plant Adaptation” will integrate original research and reviews related to all these aspects of woody plant epigenetics.

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