

Special Issue

Truffle Hunting and Mushrooms Ecology in Forest Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

Mushrooms are a distinct group of living organisms of considerable nutritional, pharmaceutical, and ecological value. They play an extremely important role in the unfolding of ecological processes in terrestrial ecosystems, especially in forests. A very important role for the forest ecosystem is played by symbiotic fungi, especially mutualistic ones, which contribute to plant nutrition. In addition, mushrooms are capable of accumulating very high concentrations of toxic substances, which is why they are often used as biological indicators of the state of the ecosystem. There are several species of truffles, generally belonging to the genus *Tuber*, some of which are geographically widespread. Nevertheless, their availability does not meet market demand, and therefore, truffles are among the most expensive mushrooms. Local communities can benefit economically from the presence of truffles in their area, but uncontrolled hunting could cause ecological stress to the forest. The purpose of this Special Issue is to present the latest findings on truffles, truffle hunting, and mushrooms in general in the forest ecosystem.

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