

Special Issue

Sensitivity of Forest Tree Growth to Heavy Metals

Message from the Guest Editors

The problem of forest decline is growing every year. Among the reasons for this phenomenon is environmental pollution by heavy metals. Trees constitute an excellent source of information about changes taking place in the environment over many years and enable long-term research due to their longevity and long-term relationship with a specific habitat. Herbaceous plants often undergo rapid changes that allow them to develop tolerance to metals within just several generations. A lot of data collected in recent years suggest that this does not apply to the population of trees growing in the vicinity of heavy metal emission sources, where forests are dying at increasing rates. On the other hand, the tolerance of trees to trace metals appears to be species-specific, with some species being more resistant than others. An unambiguous answer to the question of what determines the resistance/tolerance and what determines the sensitivity of trees to this type of pollution remains unknown. As such, we have opened this Special Issue as a platform for researchers in the field to use to share the results of their research on forest trees growing under stress caused by trace and heavy metals.

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