

Special Issue

Wood Chemistry in a Changing Global Environment

Message from the Guest Editors

Wood, a composite of holocellulose, lignin, and extractives, provides a record of past environmental and ontogenic effects throughout the life of a tree. Species-specific genetic and ontogenic factors influence the biosynthesis of wood formation and, by extension, its chemical composition. Tree-ring research is a dynamic discipline that encompasses dendrochronology, dendroclimatology, and more recently dendrochemistry by including tree-ring wood features that can be measured. Biomacromolecules have not been considered thus far, mainly due to limitations imposed by classical wet chemistry methods. Recently, precise quantification at the semi-micro level based on analytical pyrolysis has opened up the opportunity to perform this analysis. Analyzing tree rings formed under extreme events as well as annual rings from preceding and subsequent years used as a control group constitutes an efficient way to overcome limitations. We welcome submissions on the effects of extreme weather events or any climatic change on the biomacromolecular content and/or composition of wood.

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