Special Issue

Forest Tree Genetics and Breeding—Identification and Propagation of Hybrids

Message from the Guest Editors

Natural hybridisation between different tree species typically occurs where the geographical ranges of closely related species overlap. These zones, often referred to as hybrid or contact zones - crucial for understanding the dynamics of species interactions and potential gene flow. In contrast to natural hybridisation, crossing different tree species produces hybrid trees with the desired characteristics. This process allows for a combination of beneficial traits and properties of different species - improved growth rate, disease resistance, or wood quality. The artificial hybrids' introduction into natural ecosystems raises concerns about potential impacts on native species. The effects of both natural and artificial hybridisation may include genetic introgression. This SI shares the latest research on hybrid tree species, covering the following topics:

- Hybrids identification by genetic, morphometric, chemical, or other methods and their correlations;
- Benefits and risks of hybrid breeding;
- Methods of propagation for hybrids.

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Forests (ISSN 1999-4907) is an international and cross-disciplinary, scholarly forestry journal. The distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor and review of all published articles. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access. Our goal is to have *Forests* be recognized as one of the foremost publication outlets for high quality, leading edge research in this broad and diverse field. We therefore invite you to be one of our authors, and in doing so share your important research findings with the global forestry community.

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