

Special Issue

The Importance and Conservation of Ectomycorrhizal Fungal Diversity in Forest Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

Ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi are an important component of the biodiversity of temperate and boreal forests. In the 21st century, biodiversity loss is often considered a major driver of ecosystem changes and can adversely influence ECM fungi and diminish the diversity of the fungal community. Therefore, reliable information on the biodiversity of ECM fungi is urgently needed to help nature managers to implement scientifically supported efficient conservation actions. This Special Issue of *Forests* is focused on ECM fungi and the role they play in different forest ecosystems. We encourage studies from all fields of ECM ecology, but particularly those which attempt to describe spatial patterns of ECM diversity and community structure, the functional properties of ECM fungi in field settings, the environmental and ecological factors that control ECM distributions, responses of dominant ECM fungi to global change (specifically increased CO₂, nutrient availability, temperature and drought), the effect of forest management on a diversity of ECM fungi and shifts in dominant species, and/or extinction of certain ECM fungi under changing environmental conditions.

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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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