

Special Issue

Nutrients and Biota in Forest Soils

Message from the Guest Editors

The main biological components of forest soil are plant roots, fungi, microbes and soil fauna, all of which participate in the functioning of the forest ecosystem by refining and decomposing organic matter. Soil plays an important part in natural cycles, including the nutrient cycling cycle, which involves soil organic matter, such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, being absorbed and stored in the soil. Soil biota consumes large amounts of nutrients that move from one trophic level to another in the food chain. As a result, the soil biota mediates ecosystem services, with the most important being the decomposition and dynamics of organic matter, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, energy flow, water regime and preservation of water reserves in the soil and for plant growth. In this Special Issue, we focus on forest soil nutrients and biota. **Keywords**

- nutrient cycling
- plant–soil interactions
- soil biota and diversity
- soil food webs
- ecosystem services

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