Special Issue

Roles and Interactions of Insects and Microbes in Forest Systems

Message from the Guest Editor

Forests are biotic communities comprised of multiple interacting species. These communities can change in response to natural and/or anthropogenic disturbances. Along with trees, forest communities contain insects and microbes with multiple roles that may be independent of one another but are often interactive. These organisms can impact the ability of each species to survive and perform within a forest system as well as influencing the overall system dynamics. Some insects and microbes are intimately involved in ecosystem processes, such as nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation and pollination. Some are long-established community members with known relationships that can affect forest health and management (e.g., bark beetles, defoliators, root rots), but these relationships are changing in the presence of anthropogenic disturbances. Other recently-arrived invasive species have changed community structure and dynamics (e.g., European woodwasp and sudden oak death). From a forest ecology and management perspective, these relationships and interactions require further investigation.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Stephen Cook

Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, USA

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Forests
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
forests@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa
Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

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