

Special Issue

Functional Traits of Forest Plant Communities—Limitations and Potentials

Message from the Guest Editors

In the past 20 years, we have seen a change from a species-based to a trait-based approach in community ecology studies, resulting in an expressive increase in the number of papers on plant functional traits. A functional trait is any measurable characteristic which strongly influences organismal performance (i.e. growth, survival, reproduction). Although considerable progress has been made in understanding plant functioning in forests, there are still gaps to step up this knowledge to the multidimensional trait space, and to less costly and time-consuming methods, for example. Increasing this knowledge is essential to better understand current ecological patterns and to predict future outcomes from vegetation communities in a changing world. We call for papers that address this knowledge through discussing the gaps and limitations in the field; original reviews on the current 'status' of forest communities' functional traits; and novel experimental designs, databases and methods which could be used to explore other perspectives, such as geoprocessing approaches.

Guest Editors

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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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