Special Issue

Herbivory as a Driver of Forest Dynamics and Biodiversity

Message from the Guest Editor

Herbivory by mammals or insects can be destructive and extensive. Yet, except in some cases in which it overcomes ecosystem resilience and changes state, from forest to shrub cover for example, herbivory is a major driver of forest dynamics, with effects that cascade into community composition, and thus biodiversity. The selective nature of herbivory effects changes in the composition of the forest in both the short and long term in ways that may represent a challenge to management. Natural processes that are impacted by changes in herbivore communities or in herbivory patterns may also be addressed by specifically designed silvicultural practices of managed forests or of forest ecosystems that influence the ecology and biodiversity of surrounding forests, for example, mangroves, low-land forests or swamps. The aim of this Special Issue is to document a variety of systems in which herbivory is significant as a driver of forest dynamics. Research that has tested silvicutural practices aimed at maintaining natural processes or limiting the impact of stressors on natural processes and biodiversity are particularly welcome, as are works on restoration silviculture.

Guest Editor

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