

Special Issue

Soil Microorganisms in Forests: Biodiversity, Ecological Function, and Biogeography

Message from the Guest Editors

Forest ecosystems harbor a great diversity of soil microorganisms, however, soil microbes in forest ecosystems are not finely analyzed in comparison with agricultural and grassland systems. In forest ecosystems, aboveground plant community dynamics are linked with soil microorganisms. Plants provide the organic carbon required by the soil microorganisms, and the microbes in turn break down dead wood materials and regulate plant growth and community dynamics by supplying available soil nutrients. Forest ecosystems are more sensitive to climate change, due to the high soil organic carbon content. How soil microorganisms would respond to climate change and how these changes would associate with the variations in plant community dynamics, is still not clear. The distribution of soil microbes and their potential associations with plants distribution is a hot topic in ecology. We encourage studies from all these fields, including plant-microbes interactions, climate change microbiology, and microbial biogeography, to contribute to this Special Issue in order to deepen our understanding of the ecological linkages between the aboveground and belowground biota in the forest ecosystem.

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