

Special Issue

Defense Mechanisms of Forest Trees against Fungi

Message from the Guest Editors

Forest ecosystems comprise multiple fungal species with diversified ecological roles, particularly distinguished for causing forest tree diseases. The imminent changes to the climate are further threatening forest ecosystems, since the phytopathogen distribution and severity of fungal diseases are increasing, and the rate at which endophytes switch from mutualistic to pathogenic behavior is changing. To defend this, plants are able to build elaborate constitutive and inducible defense mechanisms. However, the resistance mechanisms are not always the same as those described in plant models and new information is required to understand forest tree defenses and strategies. We encourage studies from all fields related to the defense mechanisms of forest trees against fungal pathogens, especially those providing new information about constitutive and inducible defense mechanisms, the distribution and severity of fungal pathogens and control mechanisms, as well as management strategies for controlling fungal diseases. Both original works and reviews are welcome, in particular, if they promote knowledge and new strategies for the preservation and management of healthy forest ecosystems.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 April 2022)



Forests

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Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 4.6



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