

Special Issue

Mountain Treelines: Tree Growth and Plant Ecology under Climate Change

Message from the Guest Editors

Tree growth at the Alpine tree line is mainly restricted by temperature, and life forms are adapted to the cold environment. The presence of trees is strongly related to the micro-environment and also largely influenced by disturbances. Warming and decreasing duration of snow cover cause shifts in tree species composition and distribution patterns, densification of forests, and increasing plant growth. Nevertheless, responses in Alpine environment are often reported to be slow. Is the increase in changes rate so fast that species will become extinct? Are growth increases substantial, and can high elevation forest compensate for forest losses at lower elevations or are climate change rates too fast? What are the effects of shifting vegetation patterns on microclimate, soil processes and plant soil interaction (e.g. soil moisture, temperature soil carbon and nutrient cycling)? The Special Issue aims at covering the state of the art in forest and tree growth response to climate change at the Alpine tree line, including shifts in vegetation patterns and plant soil interactions. Research articles and well-funded review articles on the topic are welcome.

Guest Editors

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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