

Special Issue

Insects as Vectors of Forest Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Insect pests are among the main threats to forest health, causing high ecological and economic impacts worldwide. Their effects are amplified by climate change and global trade. In many regions, the accidental introduction of exotic species has caused severe and destructive recent outbreaks of new emerging pests, frequently associated with native or exotic fungal forest pathogens. In fact, the main damage of many forest insects, namely bark, wood-boring and ambrosia beetles, is related to their capacity to transport phytopathogenic fungi, which are inoculated directly on the tree during the feeding and/or the boring activity. Besides fungi, insects can also carry other pathogenic agents, such as nematodes and bacteria, which can also cause diseases in tree hosts, although these interactions are less studied and understood. The submission of manuscripts in SI should include: research papers and reviews on the role of insects as vectors of forest diseases (insect pest; fungi; nematodes; bacteria; insect-mediated diseases; forest decline).

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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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