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Population Genetics and Phylogeography of Collembola

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Francesco Frati

University of Siena, Department
of Life Sciences, I-53100 Siena,
Italy

Prof. Dr. Cyrille D'Haese

Mécanismes adaptatifs &
Evolution (MECADEV), CNRS,
Muséum national d'Histoire
naturelle, CP 50, Entomologie, 45
rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France

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Message from the Guest Editors

Collembola are a basal group of edaphic wingless hexapods with a long evolutionary history on Earth. Since the availability of increasingly accurate genetic and molecular tools to investigate the population genetics of living organisms, Collembola have been the subject of extensive and widespread studies that aim to assess the intimate genetic structure of their populations and species boundaries, as well as their distinctive biogeographic patterns and phylogenetic relationships.

The reasons for this interest are found in their crucial ecological role, their potential utility as indicators of soil quality (and can be used as laboratory test organisms for studies of soil pollution), and their physiological properties, characterized by a small size and reduced mobility. Their phylogenetic position is also of great interest, as they are commonly considered one of the earliest offshoots of the hexapod tree.

In this Special Issue, we aim to attract contributions using a variety of available molecular tools, with a focus on assessing the genetic structure of collembolan populations in a phylogeographic and phylogenetic framework.



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Special Issue



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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Selvarangan Ponnazhagan

Department of Pathology, The
University of Alabama at
Birmingham, 1825 University
Blvd, SHEL 814, Birmingham, AL
35294-2182, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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Genes Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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