

Special Issue

Lichen Functional Traits and Ecosystem Functions

Message from the Guest Editors

Lichens are symbiotic associations between a heterotrophic fungus (the mycobiont) and one or more photosynthetic partners (the photobiont). Although the role of lichens in ecosystems is becoming increasingly recognized, knowledge of their functional performance has only been recently expanding. In this Special Issue, we aim to increase knowledge on the abovementioned topics through dissemination of the latest research in these areas. We encourage researchers to send their research papers or reviews dealing with numerous aspects of the investigation of lichen functional traits. Some of the potential topics include:

- Genetic, physiological, or ecological background of lichen traits.
- Characterization and assessment of ecosystem functions afforded by lichen communities;
- Applicative studies using lichen functional traits for evaluating the effects of anthropogenic disturbance;
- Description of new methods for assessing lichen functional traits;
- Intraspecific variations of lichen functional traits;
- Interactions between lichens and other organisms that are mediated by functional traits.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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