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Antarctic Plants Responses to Abiotic Stress

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Antarctic flora is naturally composed by only two vascular plant species. Additionally, several mosses species and terrestrial photobionts, particularly lichens, are abundant. All these organisms' physiology is unique because it has been sculpted by the environmental constraints found in Maritime Antarctica, such as permanent low temperature even during summer, extreme cold and desiccant winds, salinity, long snow coverage and short photoperiod during winters. Currently, the Antarctic Peninsula, precisely where the greatest diversity of plants in Antarctica resides, has been identified as one of the areas most affected by regional warming, thus increasing the interest to study these singular species and their responses against abiotic stress. Therefore, the aim of this Special Issue is to consolidate a set of articles which examine the physiological mechanisms behind the uniqueness of the Antarctic plants species, in terms of adaptations to Antarctic environments, and how these mechanisms could help or preclude their responses to regional warming of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 March 2023)



mdpi.com/si/119511

Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Journal Rank: JCR - Q1 (*Plant Sciences*) / CiteScore - Q1 (*Plant Science*)

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