

Special Issue

Taxonomy, Biogeography, Ecology, Conservation and Utilization of Gymnosperms

Message from the Guest Editor

Gymnosperms are defined by the naked or partially enclosed ovules/seeds, which are different from angiosperms. They are primitive seed plants, originated ca. 385 mya, and experienced a very long and complicated evolutionary history. There are 1201 extant gymnosperm species classified in 86 genera of 13 families, and many of them are relictual, e.g., *Cathaya argyrophylla*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, *Taiwania cryptomerioides*, *Welwitschia mirabilis*, *Wollemia nobilis*, etc. Despite their low species diversity, gymnosperms have received worldwide attention due to their unusual phylogenetic position, unique combination of characters and ecological importance. In addition, gymnosperms are highly threatened, and many species will go extinct with global warming. However, many aspects of gymnosperms remain to be discovered. This Special Issue of *Plants* will highlight the systematics, biogeography, conservation and utilization of gymnosperms.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 August 2026



Plants

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.1
CiteScore 7.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/211735

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, and conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

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