Special Issue

The Silent Players of Forest Ecosystems: Viruses, Viroids, and Beyond

Message from the Guest Editor

Recent studies have revealed an unexpectedly high diversity of viruses in soilborne pathogens, with implications for pathogen reproduction and spread. Similarly, mycoviruses in ectomycorrhizal and saprotrophic fungi may influence fungal fitness, ecological interactions, and responses to environmental stressors. Viroids and other non-viral RNA agents. though less studied, have also been detected in plants and fungi, raising questions about their ecological functions and potential impacts on tree health, fungal symbioses, and disease dynamics. However, the ecological consequences of virus-fungus-host interactions remain largely unexplored, especially across climatic gradients. For this Special Issue, we welcome research on the forest virome at multiple scales-from the molecular mechanisms behind virusand viroid-host interactions to landscape-level patterns in RNA agent diversity. We encourage studies that combine high-throughput sequencing, experimental virology, and ecological modelling to better understand how these RNA- and DNA-based elements modulate forest health and productivity.

Guest Editor

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Viruses (ISSN 1999-4915) is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for studies of viruses. It publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications, conference reports and short notes. Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the length of the papers. The full experimental details must be provided so that the results can be reproduced. We also encourage the publication of timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the virology community and feature highlights from the virology literature in the 'News and Views' section.

Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure, if unable to be published in a normal way, can be deposited as supplementary material.

Editor-in-Chief

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