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Abundance and Trophic Relationships in Freshwater Ecosystems

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Interactions between food web components in freshwater ecosystems are very complex. These organisms are associated with specific trophic groups (producers, herbivores, carnivores, detritivores, and omnivores). In general, there are two theories regulating the mechanisms that control the abundance and diversity within these groups, bottom-up and top-down, which predict influences of consumers and resource availability. All these effects are under the pressure of climate change. Climate change, seen as an increase in temperature, is likely to affect the metabolism of individuals and communities, which may lead to changes in community structure, species distribution, interspecific relations, and biodiversity. Freshwaters are particularly vulnerable to climate change, because these habitats are exposed to numerous anthropogenic stressors and are fragmented within a terrestrial landscape that limits the dispersion of many species as the environment changes. This SI invites fundamental and experimental studies on habitat and diet utilization, niche dynamics, feeding strategy, and food webs, as well research on responses of freshwater organisms to the effects of climate change.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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