



The Ecology of Fine Roots and Mycorrhizas in Forests

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Fine roots and mycorrhizas play a key role in processes that occur in soils. They act as conduits of carbon transfer, from plants to soils, and as agents of nutrient acquisition and transport. The morphology of fine roots and the type and species identity of mycorrhizas strongly affect carbon transfer and nutrient acquisition. In addition, other processes, such as the exudation of organic acids and other compounds, and the release of extracellular enzymes, link roots and mycorrhizas to soil processes. Moreover, roots and mycorrhizas can alter the decomposition of organic matter by, for example, the exudation of fresh organics, known as the ‘priming effect’. Roots and mycorrhizas are also involved in soil formation, but are, in return, strongly influenced by soil properties. We encourage studies from all fields of root and mycorrhizal ecology, but particularly those which attempt to link the morphology of fine roots and the type and species identity of mycorrhizas to processes in soils.

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