

Special Issue

Functional Diversity of Soft-Bottom Benthic Communities in the Anthropocene

Message from the Guest Editor

The Anthropocene is the new geological epoch, which is characterized by the rapid accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the irreversible damage caused by human overconsumption of natural resources, and its concomitant impacts on both the climate and ecosystems. Marine soft sediment is the second largest habitat on the planet. Therefore, the communities' changes occurring in the new Anthropocene epoch are undoubtedly under intense scientific debate. However, functional ecology is one of the most underexplored aspects of this debate and how these roles are affected by the environmental drivers of the new geological epoch. Indeed, how ecological functions change with the loss of polar or sub-polar ice masses, and how biodiversity is affected by high rates of pollution or by the changes brought about by marine acidification or the carbon sink fate. These are just some of the open questions that this Special Issue aims to summarize. In this Special Issue, we are calling for papers with innovative insights, including research papers on different aspects of functional ecology and functional biodiversity from deep sea to the intertidal soft bottom benthic communities.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Diversity (ISSN 1424-2818) is a scholarly journal that covers all areas of diversity research. Our distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor for publishing. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access.

We invite papers and reviews on multidisciplinary topics of diversity that bridge organismic diversity (systematics, biodiversity, phylogeny, population genetics, and evolution) and molecular diversity (phytochemistry and biophysics).

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