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Soil Faunal Diversity and Ecological Functions in Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Forests play an important role in climate mitigation, water purification, soil health maintenance, biodiversity conservation and biosphere stability. Especially under the ongoing global change, the roles of forests in terrestrial biodiversity protection and the global biogeochemical cycle are being increasingly recognized. Soil fauna, including macrofauna, mesofauna, and microfauna, are irreplaceable components of soil biodiversity or soil food web.

Global changes induced by human activities have threatened soil fauna diversity and functions in forest ecosystems, but the determinant factors of responses, functions, and managements remain unclear. Therefore, a broad scope of topics are welcomed, including the spatiotemporal distribution of soil fauna, their responses to climate change and anthropogenic factors, their interactions with plant aboveground subsystems, as well as their multiple ecosystem functions (e.g., element cycling, soil restoration and forest productivity). The focus of this Special Issue is on soil faunal diversity and functions in forest ecosystems.

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