



Biomonitoring with Lichens and Mosses in Forests

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Message from the Guest Editors

Lichens and bryophytes play an important role in forest ecosystem functioning. They have a role in the water cycle and forest food webs, and they increase the canopy interception of precipitations and nutrients. Several species can be considered indicators, being sensitive to air pollutants and climate change and showing an ability to accumulate trace elements. In general terms, we can identify three main reasons to monitor lichen and moss in forest ecosystems: (i) to monitor the effects of atmospheric pollution and climate change, (ii) for conservation studies related to forest management and threatened species, and (iii) to obtain information on ecosystem functioning.

In this Forests Special Issue, we encourage researchers to send contributions on the following topics:

Effects of air pollution on sensitive species or species assemblages;

Effects of forest management and fragmentation on indicator species;

Modeling functional traits and indicator species;

Environmental niche models and species conservation;

Viable populations of threatened lichen and bryophyte species;

Mapping trace elements;

Standard operating procedures and sampling design for biomonitoring programs.





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