



The Importance and Conservation of Ectomycorrhizal Fungal Diversity in Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi are an important component of the biodiversity of temperate and boreal forests. In the 21st century, biodiversity loss is often considered a major driver of ecosystem changes and can adversely influence ECM fungi and diminish the diversity of the fungal community. Therefore, reliable information on the biodiversity of ECM fungi is urgently needed to help nature managers to implement scientifically supported efficient conservation actions. This Special Issue of *Forests* is focused on ECM fungi and the role they play in different forest ecosystems. We encourage studies from all fields of ECM ecology, but particularly those which attempt to describe spatial patterns of ECM diversity and community structure, the functional properties of ECM fungi in field settings, the environmental and ecological factors that control ECM distributions, responses of dominant ECM fungi to global change (specifically increased CO₂, nutrient availability, temperature and drought), the effect of forest management on a diversity of ECM fungi and shifts in dominant species, and/or extinction of certain ECM fungi under changing environmental conditions.





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