



The Hidden Side of Functional Diversity: Evolution, Ecology and Biogeography of Fine Roots in Woody Plants

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

The lack of information around how root traits vary among environments and throughout the history of plant evolution has limited the study of plant evolutionary ecology, ecosystem functioning, and species effects on C cycles.

Tests of hypotheses regarding root trait syndromes have been particularly hampered due to (1) a paucity of systematically collected data and (2) the complexity of root functioning and traits. Contrary to other plant organs, the collection and identification of root systems did not developed as a field of research to this date. Perhaps due to the challenges associated with collection and identification of organs embedded in soil, detailed description of root systems is available only in a small proportion of species, mostly in temperate areas. However, few studies have investigated the evolutionary relationship between changes in root traits and the dependency on mycorrhizal partners, particularly in tropical forests.

This Special Issue mainly focuses on describing the drivers of fine root traits in tree species, and how those traits can affect plant fitness and ecosystem services of forests and tree crops in tropical areas.





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