Plant-Animal Interactions in Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editor

Ecosystem services of forests are delivered or enhanced by plant–animal interactions, which influence the ecological stability of ecosystems, energy fluxes, nutrient cycling, species composition, species distribution, etc. Our knowledge of the importance of plant–animal interactions to forest ecosystem functioning is very low, especially when considering the very wide range of existing plant–animal co-adaptations occurring on the structural, molecular and physiological levels. The range of potential direct and indirect plant–animal interactions is wide and includes all types of relationships between any animal and any plant, from antagonistic via mutualistic to commensal.

This Special Issue is devoted to the plant–animal interactions in forest ecosystems. Articles may focus on any interaction involving animal and plant partners: from animal herbivory and plant carnivory, plant pollination and seed dispersal to indirect enhancement of tree recruitment by a 'landscape of fear'. Thus, any study increasing our understanding of the coevolutionary relationships between plants and animals and their importance to forest functioning are welcomed.

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Special Issue

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