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Acari: Biodiversity, Biogeography and Taxonomy Studies

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Message from the Guest Editor

Acari (mites and ticks) are an incredibly diverse group, with an estimated 930,000 to 150,000,000 extant species, although only a fraction of them are known. Acari are important in various respects, contributing to the global terrestrial decomposer food chain by breaking down plant litter and wood materials (Oribatida); being parasites of vertebrates (Ixodida) and agricultural pests (Eriophyoidea, Tetranychoidae), transmitting dangerous pathogens to humans, animals and plants; and playing a crucial role in biological pest control as voracious predators (Phytoseiidae) that replace chemical pesticides. House dust mites cause allergies in approximately 30% of humans. Acari are also interesting from an evolutionary perspective as ancient asexuals, persisting for millions of years without sexual reproduction, and because they form intimate associations with an array of bird, mammal, and arthropod hosts. This Special Issue is aimed at providing selected contributions on advances in phylogenetics, diversity, evolution, systematics, and ecology of mites and ticks.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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