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# The Role of Non-vascular Vegetation for Ecosystem Functioning and Climate in Different Regions of the World

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Deadline for manuscript submissions: closed (30 June 2023)

## Message from the Guest Editors

Bryophytes, lichens, terrestrial algae, and cyanobacteria share several physiological characteristics that distinguish them from vascular plants, such as their lack of active control over water loss and uptake. The impacts of nonvascular vegetation on soil surface properties such as albedo, thermal conductivity, or water storage may alter ecosystem processes ranging from the energy balance to succession trajectories. A main obstacle for a more quantitative assessment of these numerous potential effects of non-vascular vegetation is the relatively low number of studies, which results in uncertainty when upscaling estimates. In addition to climatic variation, the dependence of ecosystem functioning on species composition of non-vascular communities adds to this uncertainty. In this Special Issue, we aim to highlight the potential key functional role of non-vascular vegetation and to promote research that increases our overall knowledge in this regard. We welcome original papers on all topics related to non-vascular vegetation and ecosystem functioning, including both empirical and modelling approaches.



mdpi.com/si/123976







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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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