Ecology of Cave Ecosystems: Investigating Patterns and Processes

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Message from the Guest Editors

Caves are unique environments that often harbor exclusive fauna that has evolved under distinct conditions compared to surface environments. While studies on cave fauna have been published for over a century, many of them focus on the description and evolution of different species, particularly those found exclusively in caves. Consequently, our understanding of the functioning of cave ecosystems still lacks comprehensive investigations that seek to elucidate ecological patterns and processes on various scales. As a result, patterns of species interactions and their relationships with their respective environments remain largely unknown in many parts of the world. It is important to highlight that caves, along with the regions they are embedded in, experience various impacts that have intensified in recent decades. From this perspective, studies aiming to comprehend ecological patterns and processes in subterranean habitats have become increasingly important as they can provide valuable insights for conservation actions and policies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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