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Linking Plankton Diversity with Ecosystem Functioning and Services

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Message from the Guest Editors

Phytoplankton and zooplankton are the major players in aquatic ecosystems. They provide key ecosystem functioning and services. These include almost half of the global primary productivity, food sources for higher trophic levels, regulators of atmospheric CO₂ levels, and water quality indicators. Plankton are also taxonomically and functionally diverse. However, it is far from clear whether this high diversity plays a role in affecting ecosystem functioning and services. As past research on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning mostly focused on terrestrial ecosystems, we urgently need studies on the linkage between plankton diversity and ecosystem functioning and services in aquatic ecosystems. The study approaches may include but are not limited to theoretical modelling, laboratory and field experiments, as well as large-scale surveys. Both freshwater and marine studies are welcome. We particularly welcome studies that address multiple ecosystem functions or multiple trophic levels and those providing value of plankton diversity for societal benefits.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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We invite papers and reviews on multidisciplinary topics of diversity that bridge organismic diversity (systematics, biodiversity, phylogeny, population genetics, and evolution) and molecular diversity (phytochemistry and biophysics).

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