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Impacts of Global Change on Forest Litter Decomposition

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Message from the Guest Editors

The decomposition of plant litter in forest ecosystems is a central process in the global carbon and nutrient cycle and is controlled by both biotic and abiotic factors, such as climate, litter quality, and the diversity and composition of soil decomposer communities. The recent responses of forest litter decomposition to global changes drivers, e.g., elevated carbon dioxide, warming, nitrogen deposition, precipitation changes, and phosphorus fertilization, have garnered worldwide concern, although research results addressing this issue remain uncertain.

This Special Issue aims to document state-of-the-art thinking on global warming's effects on litter decomposition through studies detailing the effects of these global change drivers on the litter quality as well as the diversity and composition of soil decomposer communities.

We welcome manuscripts focusing on litter decomposition patterns, nutrient cycling, litter quality, and the contribution of decomposers (microorganism, micro-, meso- and macrofauna) to these processes based on laboratory experiments, field observation, and modeling in the context of global change.



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