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Evolution and Ecology of Soil Invertebrates

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Message from the Guest Editor

Invertebrates living in the soil experience a selection regime different from animals living aboveground or in the water. The physical conditions in the soil, including the strong gradients of pore space, moisture and temperature, and possibly relaxed predation pressure, create an environment different from any aboveground ecosystem. It is therefore likely that the study of soil invertebrate adaptations can contribute to evolutionary science with ideas that do not easily emerge when focusing on common systems of study.

The adaptive responses of soil invertebrates (earthworms, potworms, nematodes, land snails, flatworms, insects, springtails, mites, spiders, woodlice, etc.) have been described up to now mostly in morphological terms and for some species also in terms of physiology. Molecular analysis of these adaptations is lagging greatly behind since few soil invertebrates were model species in the beginning of the genomics revolution. This Special Issue of *Genes* is calling from the field high-quality papers with recent work that can contribute to filling this gap.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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