Special Issue

Plant Fossils: Taxonomy, Biogeography and Palaeoenvironments

Message from the Guest Editor

Palaeobotanical data are increasingly employed to calibrate and validate phylogenetic schemes, to elaborate biogeographical patterns through time, and to define palaeoecological dynamics. Current trends in evolutionary biology and taxonomy emphasize how analyses that incorporate fossil data to elucidate relationships within living clades are far more accurate than those based exclusively on extant taxa. Substantial methodological advancements in historical biogeography show how the development of complex and more realistic models, using information from both extinct and extant lineages, can improve our understanding of the spatio-temporal dynamics of taxa and their underlying mechanisms. Information from global databases on macroscopic and microscopic plant fossils, compared with paleoclimate reconstructions based on independent proxies, allow increasing accuracy in detecting palaeoecological processes at different geographical scales. This Special Issue welcomes high-quality papers showing how plant fossils can contribute to taxonomical and biogeographical questions of forest taxa, as well as to palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic investigations involving woodland ecosystems.

Guest Editor

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