



forests

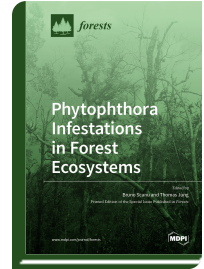


Special Issue Reprint

Phytophthora Infestations in Forest Ecosystems

www.mdpi.com/books/reprint/3790

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ISBN 978-3-0365-0800-9 (Hardback)
ISBN 978-3-0365-0801-6 (PDF)

The oomycete genus *Phytophthora* represents one of the most notorious groups of tree pathogens in natural and semi-natural forest ecosystems. Since the discovery in the 1960s of the invasive *P. cinnamomi*, threatening some of the world's richest plant communities in Australia, numerous *Phytophthora* diseases have been reported on forest trees worldwide, which were previously unknown to science. The most notable examples include the oak and beech declines triggered by different *Phytophthora* spp. in Europe and North America, the findings of sudden oak death and sudden larch death caused by *P. ramorum* in the Western USA and the U.K., respectively, and the association of *P. austrocedri* with mal del ciprés in Argentina and juniper decline in the U.K. All these epidemic events are driven by exotic invasive *Phytophthora* species, introduced through infested nursery plants from their native overseas environments. In recent years, many independent surveys have studied the diversity of *Phytophthora* species and the diseases they are causing across a diverse range of forests and other natural ecosystems. This Special Issue presents papers on *Phytophthora* surveys performed in different biogeographic regions and addresses the pathways, and ecological and economic impacts of these invasive forest pathogens.



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