

71st FEFCO

Forest Ecosystem Function Colloquium (FEFCO) は、地域や地球全体のレベルで森林生態系の機能とその持続的活用法を統合的に理解することを目的とし、研究者間の学術交流を推進します。

第71回森林生態系機能コロキウムは、Gerhard Zotz博士にご講演いただきます。どなたでも参加できますので、多くの皆様のご参加をお待ちしております。京都大学農学研究科森林生態学研究室がホストを務めます。

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2024/7/26 13:00 - 14:00

Faculty of Agriculture Main Building, W322
& ZOOM



↑ Zoom form for
registration

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Deconstructing the term “epiphyte”

Epiphytes are non-parasitic plants that establish, grow and reproduce on a living substrate, typically a tree, without contact with the soil throughout their life. While there is little doubt whether an individual plant is an epiphyte the characterization of a species as “epiphyte” is potentially problematic: conspecifics frequently differ in their substrate use, both at local and regional levels. A categorical approach of labelling species as “epiphytes” and “non-epiphytes” obscures important biological variability, which leads to potentially erroneous interpretations of ecological processes and evolutionary trends. A new approach applied to thousands of species shows that species are mostly not restricted to either epiphytic, lithophytic or terrestrial growth. In the light of these results, I propose a somewhat different use of the term “epiphyte” and discuss the consequences of a less categorical concept of the term “epiphyte” for future ecological and evolutionary studies.

Keywords: C-S-R- theory, epiphytes, growth forms, intraspecific variability, life forms