



QUANTITATIVE AND SYSTEM BIOLOGY SEMINAR: Iran's Forest Geography



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About The Speaker:

Anoushirvan Shirvany was born in 1996 in Iran, graduated from the University of Tehran with a Ph.D. in Forest Science in 2004, and began as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tehran. He has 19 years of experience teaching courses and mentoring MSc. and Ph.D. students as chair of committee and committee member. His primary skills in Forest Biology include Functional Ecology, Phytoremediation, and Forest Genetics. My achievements have practical applications in polluted soil treatment, polluted ecosystem remediation, and considering symbiosis between fungi and plants. Cooperating with Iranian National Science Foundation (INSF) as a referee for many research projects and with some of the projects internationally such as UNCC UNESCO and Darwin Initiative Project, member of national councils for registration of national monuments for 17 years continually, Membership of Editorial Board of three national scientific Journals and cooperating with Forest and Rangeland Organization of Iran and Research Institute of Forest and Rangelands of Iran are some other activates which he has done during these years. Contributions to more than 100 scientific papers in national and international Journals and two books are some of his achievements during these years.

Abstract:

Iran is in the heart of the Middle East, the southwest of Asia. It is a mountainous territory with the Caspian Sea, the most fabulous lake in the world in the northern part, and in the south, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, the essential energy throat of the world. Iran includes five plant regions: Hyrcanian, Arasbaran, Irano-Touranian, Zagros, and Khalijo-Omanian. The Hyrcanian region is located on the northern slopes of Alborz Mountain. It is a neighbor to the Caspian Sea, which is covered with deciduous broad-leaf forests that belong to more than 2 million years ago. That is distributed from sea level to 2500 m above sea level. Its dominant vegetation is *Fagus orientalis* and *Carpinus betulus* novel species with cooperating some species such as *Parrotia persica*, *Quercus castaneifolia*, *Buxus sempervirens* subsp. *hyrcana* and many other tree species. Arasbaran region is the smallest plant region in Iran, located in the northwest of Iran, and includes deciduous broad-leaf forests and grasslands, scrub lands, and Juniper forests. The dominant vegetation is *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus macranthera*, and *Quercus petraea*. In addition, *Juniperus foetidissima* covers a great area in this region. Its most important characteristic is hidden rain, which is more than 700 mm annually. Zagros is a great mountain, including Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, covered by Oak forest with an understory of steppe shrubs and grasses, grasslands, and shrubs. About 16 oak species exist in Zagros, but the main element is *Quercus brantii* var. *Persica* with in cooperating of *Pistacia atlantica* var. *mutica*, *Amygdalus* spp. and *Acer cinerascens*. Khalijo-Omani region is located neighbor to the Persian Gulf, and Oman Sea has been covered with semi-tropic and subtopic species such as *Acacia nilotica*, *Prosopis cineraria*, *Ziziphus spinachristii* and in the intertidal zone mangrove forest, mostly *Avicennia marina*. Irano-Turanian region is the most significant plant region in Iran, which includes dry lands and deserts with poor vegetation, sometimes with halophytes and scattered grasses, *Astragalus* species, and limited scattered tree species such as *Haloxylon* sp. *Pistacia atlantica* var. *mutica*, *Amygdalus scoparia* and *Acer cinerascens*. It includes some of the mountain with Juniper forests in some parts. Lut Dessert is a World Heritage site in this region. Iran's flora contains more than 8,000 vascular plant species, and about 2200 species are endemic, whereas more than 80% of these endemisms are located in the Irano-Turanian region. Since the total forest area in Iran is less than 10% of Iran's territory, Iran is one of the Low Forest Cover Countries association (LFCC).

Date:

9/1/2023

Time:

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Location:

SSB 120