**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

Unveiling the hidden world: Biodiversity and ecological function of soil fauna

# Session Organizers

* Yuji Jiang, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, yjjiang@fafu.edu.cn，primary contact person
* Francisco Dini‐Andreote, The Pennsylvania State University, andreote@psu.edu

# Session Description

The symposium will focus on cutting-edge topics, including the taxonomy and diversity of soil invertebrates, their ecological functions in nutrient cycling and soil health, and responses to global challenges such as climate change, land-use intensification, and soil pollution. Discussions will span interdisciplinary approaches, integrating molecular biology, biogeochemistry, and ecological modeling to unravel complex soil food web dynamics. The symposium will also address conservation strategies, sustainable agricultural practices, and the restoration of degraded soils through efficiently collaborative management of soil animals and microorganisms.

# Format

Oral presentations, panel discussions, workshops, posters.

# Proposed Speakers

Shenglei Fu, Henan University, a leading scientist in soil zooecology who focuses on the interactions between various biological groups in the ecosystem.

Stefan Geisen, Wageningen University & Research, a leading expert in soil zoology who focuses on the interactions of microbiome predators (protists and nematodes) with their bacterial and fungal prey and the functional implication of these interactions such as on the performance of plants, greenhouse gas emissions and other soil functions.

Alexandre Jousset, Utrecht University, a leading scientist in soil animal-microbe interactions and their functions in regulating plant health.

Leho Tedersoo, University of Tartu, a leading scientist in soil eukaryote.

Alex Dumbrell, University of Essex, a famous expert in belowground eukaryote diversity and functions.