

High Mountain Climate Stress Factors

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The tree line is of intermediate value and means the line that combines the highest level of forest areas. High mountain biomes, especially its upper boundaries, are one of the most important objects for study of adaptive responses of plants inhabiting extreme high-mountain environments. High mountain ecosystems characterized by life-disadvantage conditions are functional only when separate species and vegetation communities have been well-adapted to thrive in such extreme conditions. Biochemical and physiological mechanisms serve as a basis for all ecological adaptations. Stress should not be regarded as a negative phenomenon as to a certain extent stress is vitally important component not only for the plant but for the plant life. It contains both destructive and constructive elements as a selective filter, driving force for improved sustainability and adaptive evolution. The paper discusses the stress that causes damage (destructive stress) to the existing tissue and restricts a new tissue formation. Thus, all the gradual restrictions that fall under the category of "suboptimal", as well as biotic interaction, such as competition for light and soil resources, will not fall within the "stress-causing" category.