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Twelve-year change in tree diversity and spatial segregation in the Mediterranean city of Santiago, Chile

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Highlights

- Exotic tree species dominate Santiago's urban forest (86-96% of trees)
- City-wide abundance and diversity of urban trees were stable over 12-years
- Abundance and species richness of native trees increased over 12-years
- Wealthier areas had more species and abundance of trees than poorer areas
- Tree planting and maintenance programs should target low socioeconomic areas

Abstract

Tree diversity is one of the most important components of urban ecosystems, because it provides multiple ecological benefits and contributes to human well-being. However, the distribution of urban trees may be spatially segregated and change over time. To provide insights for a better distribution of tree diversity in a socially segregated city, we evaluated

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