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David Wardle obtained a BSc (honors) degree in botany in 1986 at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, and a PhD in soil ecology in 1990 at the University of Calgary in Canada. He is currently Professor of Forest Ecology at the Asian School of the Environment at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. His research explores the links between aboveground and belowground communities, and how these in turn drive the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems. A large proportion of this work is field based and in natural ecosystems, including forested ecosystems around the world as well as subarctic and subalpine tundra. Current projects focus on the community and ecosystem effects of invasive animals and plants; the ecological consequences of wildfire; ecosystem changes across successional, retrogressive and elevational gradients; aspects of island ecology; and the ecological role of forest understory vegetation. He has also authored two books on aboveground-belowground linkages (published by Princeton University Press in 2002 and Oxford University Press in 2010), and around 280 peer-reviewed publications of which over 20 have appeared in Science and Nature. He serves or has served on over 10 editorial boards, including Science, Ecology and Ecology Letters. He has been designated as a highly cited scientist and as among the world's 20 most cited scientists in ecology and environmental sciences, and is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a Wallenberg Scholar.