My co-authors and I are pleased to submit the manuscript titled “Genotypic variation in foundation tree generates ecological network structure” for review by Science.

Our manuscript merges network ecology and community genetics to empirically demonstrate that genotypic variation in foundation species impacts ecological network structure in complex communities. Although multiple studies of ecological networks have pointed to the importance of intra-specific variation, no study has yet demonstrated this empirically using both a manipulative experiment and observations in a naturally established ecosystem.

Since ecological network structure has been linked to community dynamics and genetically based variation is the raw material for natural selection, the findings of our study provides novel, impactful insights into processes operating at the interface between ecology and evolutionary biology. Because of this, we believe that our study substantially advances our understanding of the mechanisms that contribute to the dynamics of complex ecological systems. As genetic methods continue to spread in ecology, our study paves the way for a new direction in the study of the genetic underpinnings of ecological dynamics.

Thank you for your consideration,

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