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Volume 6

Klaus Stern Laurence Roche

# Genetics of Forest Ecosystems

With 70 Figures



Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York 1974

Professor Dr. KLAUS STERN †, formerly : Lehrstuhl für Forstgenetik und Forstpflanzenzüchtung,  
8400 Göttingen-Weende, Büsgenweg 2, Federal Republic of Germany

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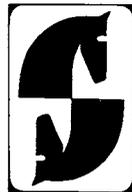
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*Dedicated to Olof Langlet*

## Preface

Throughout the world natural forest ecosystems have been, and are being massively disrupted or destroyed. The boreal forests of Canada are no more immune to man's intervention than the tropical rain forests of Africa, and the day is rapidly approaching when natural forest ecosystems, undisturbed by man, will be found only as remnants in national parks and other protected areas. Yet where they continue to exist these ecosystems are an extraordinarily rich, though relatively neglected source of data that illuminate many aspects of the classic theory of evolution.

The subject matter of this book is not, however, confined to natural forest ecosystems. Forest ecosystems under varying degrees of management, and man-made forests are also a rich source of information on ecological genetics. In general, however, it can be said that the published evidence of this fact has not yet significantly penetrated the botanical literature. All too frequently it is confined to what might be termed forestry journals.

It is hoped that this book will to some extent redress the balance, and draw attention to a body of published work which not only provides a basis for the rational management and conservation of forest ecosystems, but also complements the literature of ecological genetics and evolution.

The first draft of Chapters I to V was written in German by the senior author and translated by E. K. MORGENSTERN of the Canadian Forestry Service. Dr. MORGENSTERN's indispensable assistance in this regard is gratefully acknowledged. Dr. GREGORIUS (Göttingen) helped in developing chapters I and IV. J. ANTOINE and G. MÜLLER (Göttingen) kindly took care of the subject index.

A book of this nature cannot be published without an acknowledgement of the profound influence of the work of OLOF LANGLET of Sweden. It is with respect and admiration that this book is dedicated to him.

The tragic death of KLAUS STERN, just as the book was ready for press, and when he was at the height of his powers, has impoverished the lives of all who knew him, and left a gap in scientific forestry which will not easily be filled.

Ibadan, February 1974

LAURENCE ROCHE

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