

Forthcoming titles

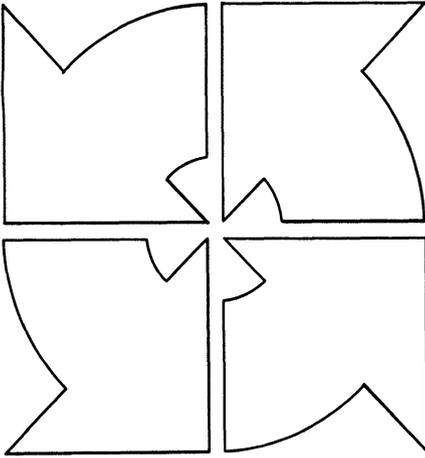
Vegetation Dynamics

John Miles

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R. Cormack

Further volumes are planned in the areas of modelling, population ecology, paleoecology and crop ecology.



Outline

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Editors' Foreword

Both in its theoretical and applied aspects, ecology is developing rapidly. In part because it offers a relatively new and fresh approach to biological enquiry, but it also stems from the revolution in public attitudes towards the quality of the human environment and the conservation of nature. There are today more professional ecologists than ever before, and the number of students seeking courses in ecology remains high. In schools as well as universities the teaching of ecology is now widely accepted as an essential component of biological education, but it is only within the past quarter of a century that this has come about. In the same period, the journals devoted to publication of ecological research have expanded in number and size, and books on aspects of ecology appear in ever-increasing numbers.

These are indications of a healthy and vigorous condition, which is satisfactory not only in regard to the progress of biological science but also because of the vital importance of ecological understanding to the well-being of man. However, such rapid advances bring their problems. The subject develops so rapidly in scope, depth and relevance that textbooks, or parts of them, soon become out-of-date or inappropriate for particular courses. The very width of the front across which the ecological approach is being applied to biological and environmental questions introduces difficulties: every teacher handles his subject in a different way and no two courses are identical in content.

This diversity, though stimulating and profitable, has the effect that no single text-book is likely to satisfy fully the needs of the student attending a course in ecology. Very often extracts from a wide range of books must be consulted, and while this may do no harm it is time-consuming and expensive. The present series has been designed to offer quite a large number of relatively small booklets, each on a restricted topic of fundamental importance which is likely to constitute a self-contained component of more comprehensive courses. A selection can then be made, at reasonable cost, of texts appropriate to particular courses or the interests of the reader. Each is written by an acknowledged expert in the subject, and is intended to offer an up-to-date, concise summary which will be of value to those engaged in teaching, research or applied ecology as well as to students.

Studies in Ecology

Island Ecology

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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1 Introduction	7
Bibliography	7
2 Reaching and colonizing islands	8
2.1 Getting there	8
2.1.1 An experiment in sweep-stake dispersal	8
2.1.2 Dispersal observed	10
2.1.3 How do you get across an ocean?	12
2.1.4 Super-tramps—dispersal as a way of life	14
2.2 Establishing a beach-head	16
References	20
3 How many species?	22
3.1 Species number and habitat diversity	24
3.2 The effect of area alone	24
3.3 Equilibrium theory	25
3.3.1 The effects of size and remoteness	28
References	31
4 Islands as experiments in competition	33
4.1 Abundance shifts	36
4.2 Altitudinal shifts	36
4.3 Habitat shifts	37
4.4 Shifts in vertical foraging range	37
4.5 Dietary shifts	37
4.6 Assembly rules for island communities	38
References	39
5 The very remote islands	41
5.1 The ancient conifers of New Caledonia	43
5.2 The Honeycreepers of Hawaii	43
5.3 Unresolved problems	47
References	47
6 Some dangers of living on an island	48
6.1 The taxon cycle	48
6.2 What drives the cycle?	51
References	52

7 Continental habitat islands	53
7.1 Islands of Páramo vegetation	55
7.2 Mountain mammals	58
7.3 Caves of limestone	60
7.4 Goldmines and Pikas	61
References	64
8 Island ecology and nature reserves	65
8.1 How many species will a reserve support?	65
8.2 How long does it take to lose species?	67
8.3 Which species will be lost?	69
8.4 The design of reserves	70
References	72
Map–location of islands mentioned in text	73
Index	76