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Plants and Vegetation

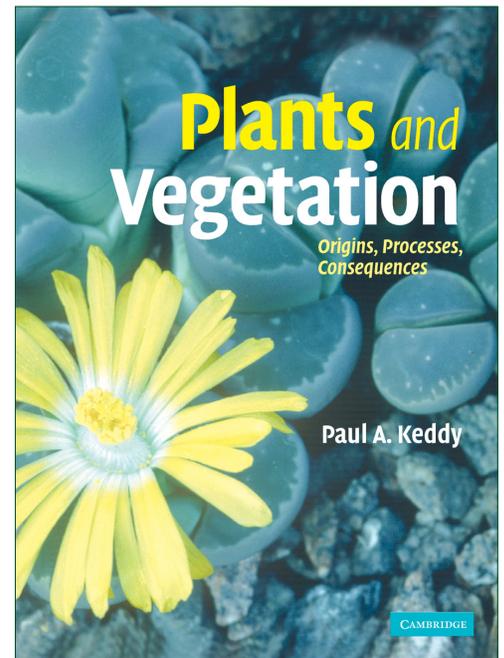
Origins, Processes, Consequences

PAUL A. KEDDY

This vibrant new introductory textbook integrates important classical themes with recent ideas, models and data. The book begins with the origin of plants and their role in creating the biosphere as the context for discussing plant functional types and evolutionary patterns. Its coverage continues logically through the exploration of causation with chapters, amongst others, on resources, stress, competition, herbivory, and mutualism. The book concludes with a chapter on conservation, addressing the concern that as many as one-third of all plant species are at risk of extinction. Each chapter is enriched with striking and unusual examples of plants (e.g., stone plants, carnivorous plants) and plant habitats (e.g., isolated tropical tepui, arctic cliffs). Paul Keddy's lively and thought-provoking style will appeal to students at all levels.

Current plant ecology texts each have disadvantages. You may be tired of geographical biases, lack of basic botany, too little (or too much) theory, outdated examples, omission of important topics, limited referencing, or the excesses of personality-driven science. This new text book offers an alternative—a fresh, balanced, contemporary, comprehensive approach to the study of plants and their communities.

PAUL A. KEDDY is the first holder of the Schlieder Endowed Chair for Environmental Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University. His current research explores the environmental factors that control plant communities, and how these factors can be manipulated to maintain and restore biological diversity. He was awarded the National Wetlands Award for Science Research by the Environmental Law Institute in 2007. Dr. Keddy has published more than a hundred scholarly papers on plant ecology, and is designated a Highly Cited Researcher in Ecology and Environment by the Institute for Scientific Information. He is the author of *Wetland Ecology: Principles and Conservation* (winner of the Society of Wetland Scientists' Merit Award) and *Competition* (awarded the Lawson Medal by the Canadian Botanical Association and the Gleason Prize by the New York Botanical Garden). Dr. Keddy also co-edited *The World's Largest Wetlands: Ecology and Conservation* and *Ecological Assembly Rules: Perspectives, Advances, Retreats*.



FEATURES

Comprehensive

704 pages, 364 figures, 80 tables, more than 1000 references.

Global scope

World-wide examples including South American tepuis, South African fynbos, North American pine savannas, and Australian kwongan.

Rich natural history

Copiously illustrated to enhance appreciation of plants as organisms. Carnivorous plants. Parasitic plants. Epiphytic plants. Aquatic plants. Arctic plants. Succulents. Endolithic lichens. Myrmecochorous plants. Orchids.

Models

Trade-offs in sexual and asexual reproduction. Matrix models for population dynamics. CSR and r-K continua in life history strategies. Trends during succession. Plant-herbivore interactions. Thresholds in ecosystem collapse.

Conservation

Applied examples throughout; unified treatment in a final chapter. Biological hotspots. Ecosystems at risk. Design of reserve systems. Mechanisms of global warming. Overgrazing. Logging. Ecological footprints. Ecosystem restoration.

Plants and Vegetation: Origins, Processes, Consequences

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Chapter 7: Herbivory;

Chapter 8: Positive interactions: mutualism, commensalism, and symbiosis;

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