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There have been many studies of tropical diversity but until now Neotropical fishes have received relatively little attention. This contrasts with South American birds, a group that has been prominent in tests of macroecological hypotheses (e.g. Rahbek et al., 2007). Fish are responsible for more diversity and deserve to be more fully studied. This book provides the knowledge that will inform these exciting research opportunities.

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- Rahbek, C., Gotelli, N. J., Colwell, R. K., Entsminger, G. L., Rangel, T. F. L. V. B. and Graves, G. R. (2007). Predicting continental-scale patterns of bird species richness with spatially explicit models. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 274, 165-174.
- Wilson, E.O. (2003). The origins of hyperdiversity. pp. 13-18 in *Pheidole in the New World: A Dominant Hyperdiverse Ant Genus*, Wilson, E.O. (ed). Harvard University Press.

Edited by Markus Eichhorn

books noted with interest

Principles of terrestrial ecosystem ecology

F. Stuart Chapin III, Pamela A. Matson & Peter M. Vitousek

2011, 2nd edition, Springer, 529 pp.

£135 (Hardback), £44.99 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781441995032 / 9781441995025

<http://www.springer.com/>

An outstanding textbook which, after definitions, sets the stage with primers on Earth's climate system and geological processes. What follows is a magisterial and comprehensive account of the movements of water, energy, carbon and nutrients through natural systems. Along with standard generalisations, the authors delve into the finer detail and explain how biological processes can have important modulating effects through space and time. A final reflective pair of chapters considers global changes and the implications for ecosystem management. The book is well written throughout and punctuated with excellent colour illustrations; no-one from undergraduates to established researchers can fail to learn something from it.

Guide to standard floras of the World: An annotated, geographically arranged systematic bibliography of the principal floras, enumerations, checklists and chorological atlases of different areas

David F. Frodin

2001, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, 1100 pp.

£198 (Hardback), £90 (Paperback), US\$120 (e-book)

ISBN: 9780521790772 / 9780521189774

<http://www.cambridge.org/>

While not generally our policy to feature reprints, this standard text has newly appeared in paperback, bringing it within affordable reach of a greater number of researchers. It does exactly what it says on the cover, making it the definitive reference for anyone commencing work on the flora of a new region. Despite its not receiving any further updates and its coverage ending in 1999, there remain no resources to rival it, either in print or online. It also contains insightful reviews on the history of floristic description. An essential book which belongs in the library of every plant biogeographer.

Field guide Afghanistan: Flora and Community ecology vegetation

Siegmar-W. Breckle & M. Daud Rafiqpoor
2011, Scientia Bonnensis, Bonn, 864 pp.

Price: *Contact publishers*

ISBN: 9783940766304

<http://www.scientia-bonnensis.com/>

The flora of this vast, environmentally diverse and biogeographically central country has yet to be fully catalogued, but this field guide represents a landmark accomplishment on the path to doing so, filling an anomalous gap at the junction of several floristic realms. It contains a pictorial guide to over 1200 species (>25% of the flora) plus general chapters on vegetative formations and should facilitate both local and international study. Copies have been freely distributed to universities and institutes throughout Afghanistan as well as herbaria and museums worldwide. A feature on this project is planned for a future edition of *Frontiers of Biogeography*.

Peter J. Morin

2011, 2nd edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 407 pp.

£90 (Hardback), £34.99 (Paperback)

ISBN 9781444338218 / 9781405124119

<http://www.wiley.com/>

Community ecology straddles conventional interaction-based ecology and biogeography; recent heated debate in the pages of *American Naturalist* has even disputed whether communities truly exist as natural entities. Unsurprisingly the author makes a strong case for communities, stressing patterns and processes that can only be understood at this level, and pleasingly devotes equal attention to both models and experimental data. The textbook is intended for a graduate course and represents a major update on the previous edition. One might query the balance of coverage of various topics but nevertheless this remains the only textbook exclusively devoted to this scale of study.

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Editorial policy for book reviews

Frontiers of Biogeography will publish in-depth reviews of recently published books (typically less than one year old) on biogeography or of interest to biogeographers, alongside a 'Noted with Interest' section providing brief details of new publications. Authors, editors or third parties are invited to suggest books for review to the Book Review Editor, Dr Markus Eichhorn, School of Biology, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom; telephone ++44 (0)115 951 3214; e-mail markus.eichhorn@nottingham.ac.uk. We welcome offers to review books for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but will not accept an offer to review a specific book. Anyone wishing to review books should send a brief *curriculum vitae*, description of competencies, and a statement of reviewing interests to the Book Review Editor. Reviews should be in an essay style, expressing an opinion about the value of the book, its focus and breadth, setting it in the context of recent developments within the field of study. Textbook reviews should consider their utility as resources for teaching and learning. Avoid describing the book chapter by chapter or listing typographical errors. The length should normally be 1000 words (1500 words for joint reviews of related texts) including a maximum 10 references. Authors may suggest a short heading for the review, followed by the title of the book(s), the authors/editors, publisher, publication date, price, hbk/pbk, pages, ISBN and website (where available). Figures or tables will not ordinarily be included. Authors of reviews must verify that they have not offered (and will not offer) a review of the same book to another journal, and must declare any potential conflict of interest that might interfere with their objectivity. This may form a basis for editorial decisions and such disclosures may be published. Book reviews will usually go through a light editorial review, though in some circumstances also will be considered by one or more referees.