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Plant Ecology: Origins, Processes, Consequences

Paul A. Keddy

2017, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, 624 pp.

£49.99 (Hardback); ISBN 9781107114234

<http://www.cambridge.org>

Persuading students of biology, zoology or geography to consider plants is an uphill struggle, but set this compelling book as class reading and it will win many converts. It is not so much an expansion of the first edition as a refinement. The text remains readable and immersive, the colour illustrations throughout are striking, and the organisation into clear thematic sections makes it functional as both reference and narrative account. It could function as a general text in ecology, albeit slightly old-fashioned in content and scope in places. The inclusion of personal stories brings human interest to otherwise dry areas.

Australian Echinoderms: Biology, Ecology and Evolution

Maria Byrne & Timothy O'Hara (editors)

2017, CSIRO Publishing, 624 pp.

AU\$180 (Hardback); ISBN 9781486307623

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/>

Echinoderms are found in marine environments from the intertidal through to the deep sea, in climates from the tropics to the polar ocean, and the Australian territories encompass all these. Following a series of general chapters, including one on biogeographical patterns, the biology, distribution and evolutionary relationships among 110 families are laid out in full. CSIRO have an excellent track record of producing books both at the forefront of research and with illustrations that make them desirable items in their own right. This book is a worthy addition to their catalogue and deserves to become a standard reference. Highly recommended.

Biological Oceanography of the Baltic Sea

Pauline Snoeijs-Leijonmalm, Hendrik Schubert, & Teresa Radziejewska (editors)

2017, Springer, 683 pp.

£44.99 (hardback) / £35.99 (ebook)

ISBN 9789400706675 / 9789400706682

<http://www.springer.com>

The Baltic is a partially-enclosed continental sea, one of Earth's largest bodies of brackish water, and strongly influenced by surrounding land-masses. This makes it fascinating from a biogeographical perspective, as it contains a particularly strong north-south environmental gradient in both salinity and temperature, but also makes it vulnerable to human impacts, especially eutrophication. Recent invasions have also shaped its diversity. The tone of this comprehensive book falls between a textbook (often at a basic level) and a systematic review; perhaps its most likely utility would be as a supporting text for a field course or workshop with a regional focus.

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