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books noted with interest

Ecoregions: The Ecosystem Geography of the Oceans and Continents

Robert G Bailey

2014, Springer, 180 pp. 2nd edition

£62.99 (Hardback) / £49.99 (eBook)

ISBN 9781493905232 / 9781493905249

springer.com

Terrestrial ecoregions as defined by Olson et al. (2011, *Bioscience* 51:933) have become the default scale for many biogeographical studies, though are predated by the first edition of this alternative scheme. Each contains different assumptions and objectives. Bailey's scheme includes ocean surface waters, and on land relies solely on climate, landforms and vegetation. It explicitly does not delineate based on species distributions, nor are land and freshwater systems separated. Islands are little mentioned. This updated and expanded edition is wonderfully illustrated throughout (disproportionately using North American examples) and provides an exemplary review of the link between climate and natural systems.

The Salamanders of Europe, Asia and Northern Africa

Max Sparreboom

2014, KNNV Publishing, 432 pp.

€125, ISBN 9789050114851

www.knnvuitgeverij.nl

Over 160 Old World salamander species are covered in this well-illustrated, full-colour book. Each species description contains information on habitats and reproduction, as well as useful guides for field identification of adults, eggs and juveniles. Distribution maps are provided for all, though a checklist would have been a useful addition for biogeographers. It is likely to be of greatest appeal to enthusiasts.

Plant Systematics: The Origin, Interpretation and Ordering of Plant Biodiversity

Tod F Stuessy, Daniel J Crawford, Douglas E Soltis, Pamela S Soltis

2014, Koeltz Scientific Books, 425 pp.

€118, ISBN 9783874294522

koeltz.com

The recent explosion of information on plant evolutionary relationships, particularly through the work of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (last report 2009), has proven challenging to combine with traditional taxonomic botany. While existing textbooks provide an entry into plant systematics (especially Judd (2008) and Simpson (2010)), there is a need for an advanced treatment gathering together all aspects of plant classification and connecting these distinct traditions. This dense, rigorous text will serve post-graduate students well, along with researchers who need a comprehensive reference text for areas of the subject remote from their own specialism. An 88-page reference list says it all.

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You can find information about the **International Biogeography Society** at <http://www.biogeography.org/>, and contact with other biogeographers at the **IBS blog** (<http://biogeography.blogspot.com/>), the **IBS facebook group** (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6908354463>) and the **IBS twitter channel** (<https://twitter.com/biogeography>).