There have been many studies of tropical diversity but until now Neotropical fishes fish 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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References

Edited by Markus Eichhorn

books noted with interest

**Principles of terrestrial ecosystem ecology**

F. Stuart Chapin III, Pamela A. Matson & Peter M. Vitousek
£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 though 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
£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 vegetation
Siegmar-W. Breckle & M. Daud Rafiqpoor
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.

Community ecology
Peter J. Morin
£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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