

# UC Merced

## Frontiers of Biogeography

### Title

Books noted with interest

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Peer reviewed

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## Books noted with interest

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### **Mammals of Mexico**

Gerardo Ceballos (editor)

2014, John Hopkins University Press, 984 pp.

\$150.00 (Hardback)

ISBN 9781421408439

<https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu>

544 species of mammal occur in Mexico—the second highest total of any country—and almost a third are endemic. This comprehensive, authoritative account neglects none of them, from manatees to the tiny volcano rabbit. The synthetic chapters are impressive in themselves, covering national patterns of diversity and conservation status. Species accounts include notes on taxonomy, natural history, associations with habitat types, elevational range, and distribution maps (with historical range when known). A dense, 80-page bibliography supports the text. An outstanding source of information for biogeographical research, and the photographs make it a pleasure to browse. Highly recommended.

### **Atlas of British and Irish Bryophytes**

Tom L Blockeel, Sam DS Bosanquet, Mark O Hill & Chris D Preston

2014, Pisces Publications, 1250 pp. (across two volumes)

£75.00 (Hardback)

ISBN Vol. 1: 9781874357612 / Vol. 2:

9781874357629

<http://www.naturebureau.co.uk/>

Few areas of the globe are as comprehensively surveyed as the British Isles. This 2-volume atlas maps the distributions and altitudinal ranges of 1069 species of mosses, liverworts and hornworts in 10 km grid squares. This represents decades of fieldwork by members of the British Bryological Society and close to 3 million records. Detailed information on each species is also provided. Each map indicates records pre-1950, 1950–1989, and the latest data to 2013. These reveal the influence of changes in the climate, land use and air quality. An accompanying CD provides a PDF copy but not, sadly, the data.

### **Handbook of Spatial Point-Pattern Analysis in Ecology**

Thorsten Wiegand & Kirk A Moloney

2013, CRC Press, 538 pp.

£53.99 (Hardback)

ISBN 9781420082548

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

Organisms are seldom randomly distributed—more often they are clustered or dispersed, at scales which can reveal underlying processes. Points can also contain information such as sizes or species, which provide further opportunities for interpretation. The authors are leading researchers and educators in ecological studies of spatial point patterns whose work has consistently emphasised the importance of appropriate null models. While more comprehensive specialist texts on spatial statistics exist, this handbook provides an accessible guide for non-statisticians based around the free and widely-used software Programita. Most worked examples focus on forest trees but could easily be extended to other organisms.

### **Carnivores of Australia: Past, Present and Future**

Alistair S Glen & Christopher R Dickman (editors)

2014, CSIRO Publishing, 438 pp.

AU \$89.95 (Hardback)

ISBN 9780643103108

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

An eye-catching Tasmanian Devil frontispiece makes book this hard to miss. Sadly unlike Australia's native carnivores, which have been largely extirpated, with dramatic repercussions. After reviewing the rise and fall of the larger reptilian and marsupial carnivores, further chapters consider the latest arrivals: dogs, foxes and cats. This leads on to consideration of how best to conserve and manage Australian carnivores, including the oft-overlooked small dasyurids, and the many reptilian species. The nuanced discussions of the roles, management and hybridisation of dingoes

are particularly interesting. Each of 18 chapters functions as a self-contained review, forming a cohesive and compelling account.

### Warm-Temperate Deciduous Forests Around the Northern Hemisphere

Elgene O Box & Kazue Fujiwara (editors)  
2015, Springer, 292 pp.  
£90 (Hardback)/ £72 (eBook)  
ISBN 9783319012605 / 9783319012612  
<http://www.springer.com/>

The remit of this text is those oak-dominated forests in East Asia, Europe and eastern North America which occur in climatic zones normally dominated by evergreen broad-leaved forests (particularly laurels) but from which cold-intolerant species are excluded. Far from being anomalous, the authors argue that this is a consistent vegetation zone which demands separate recognition. Many chapters follow a quantitative phytosociological approach to classification, drawing comparisons among global regions. Several botanical chapters on oaks appear weakly connected to the main content. The transition between deciduous and evergreen elements is likely to alter with climate change, but it remains unclear how.

### Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data using Canoco 5

Petr Šmilauer & Jan Lepš  
2014, Cambridge University Press, 373 pp. ,  
2nd edition  
£40 (Paperback)  
ISBN 9781107694408  
<http://www.cambridge.org>

As a guide to ordination analyses through Canoco, this does exactly what it claims on the cover. Nevertheless it prompts a serious question. Why spend \$368 on a license for proprietary software, then more on a book to teach you to use it, given that free alternatives exist in R? Moreover, the increased computing power of the average desktop makes dimension reduction a superfluous step in analyses given that powerful multivariate GLMs could be run instead and are increasingly becoming standard practice. It would be worth doing some background research before settling on what appears to be an expensive solution.

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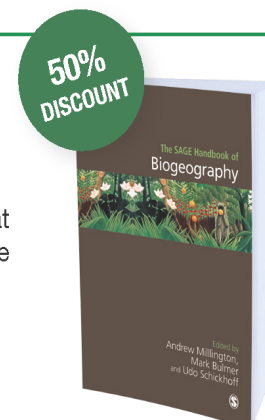
## The SAGE Handbook of Biogeography

Edited by **Andrew C Millington, Mark Blumler and Udo Schickhoff**

This text is a manual for scoping the past, present and future of biogeography that enable readers to consider, where relevant, how similar biogeographical issues are tackled by researchers in different 'schools'.

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