

Contents

Preface

xv

Acknowledgements

xix

Abbreviations

xxi

1 Introduction: defining nature

1.1 How little we know

1

1.2 Pressing questions

1

1.3 The hierarchy of nature

2

1.4 Biodiversity

2

1.5 Myths to bust

4

1.6 Further information

4

1.6.1 Recommended reading

5

References

5

Part I: Species

2 What is a species?

2.1 The big question

9

2.2 Species concepts

9

2.2.1 Nominalistic

10

2.2.2 Morphological

10

2.2.3 Biological

11

2.2.4 Phylogenetic

12

2.2.5 Genetic

13

2.3 Solving the riddle

14

2.4 Coda: Species richness

16

2.5 Conclusions

17

2.5.1 Recommended reading

17

2.5.2 Questions for the future

17

References

17

17

17

17

17

17

17

17

3 The history of life	19
3.1 The big question	19
3.2 Sources of evidence	19
3.2.1 The fossil record	19
3.2.2 Molecular evidence	20
3.3 A brief history of diversity	20
3.4 Uneven diversity	24
3.5 Conclusions	25
3.5.1 Recommended reading	26
3.5.2 Questions for the future	26
References	26
4 How many species are there?	29
4.1 The big question	29
4.2 How can we not know?	29
4.3 Discovery rates	30
4.4 Scaling	32
4.5 Sampling-based methods	33
4.6 Other organisms	36
4.7 Wrapping up	36
4.8 Conclusions	37
4.8.1 Recommended reading	38
4.8.2 Questions for the future	38
References	38
Part II: Diversity	
5 Measuring diversity	43
5.1 The big question	43
5.2 Scales of diversity	43
5.3 Species richness	43
5.4 Believing in estimates	46
5.5 A SAD story	47
5.6 Diversity of species	49
5.7 Other measures of diversity	51

5.8 β diversity	53
5.9 Case study: The Binatang project	54
5.10 Conclusions	57
5.10.1 Recommended reading	57
5.10.2 Questions for the future	57
References	57
6 Niches	61
6.1 The big question	61
6.2 Historical background	61
6.3 Back to basics	63
6.4 Birth and death rates	63
6.5 The ZNGI	66
6.6 Impact vectors	67
6.7 Supply points	67
6.8 Coexistence	68
6.9 The evidence	71
6.10 Implications	73
6.11 Conclusions	76
6.11.1 Recommended reading	77
6.11.2 Questions for the future	77
References	77
7 Patterns in species richness	79
7.1 The big question	79
7.2 Area	79
7.3 Local and regional species richness	81
7.4 Local patterns in species richness	85
7.4.1 Elevation	85
7.4.2 Depth	88
7.4.3 Peninsulas and Bays	88
7.4.4 Isolation	89
7.4.5 Mid-Domain Effects	89
7.5 Congruence	89
7.6 Assembling a model	90
7.7 Conclusions	91

7.7.1 Recommended reading	91
7.7.2 Questions for the future	92
References	92
8 Drivers of diversity	95
8.1 The big question	95
8.2 Coexistence or co-occurrence?	95
8.3 Energy and resources	95
8.4 Diversity begets diversity	101
8.4.1 Heterogeneity in space	101
8.4.2 Heterogeneity in time	103
8.5 Disturbance	104
8.6 Top-down control	105
8.7 Expanding our model	109
8.8 Conclusions	110
8.8.1 Recommended reading	110
8.8.2 Questions for the future	111
References	111
9 Does diversity matter?	113
9.1 The big question	113
9.2 Ecosystems	113
9.3 What shape is the relationship?	115
9.4 Field experiments	117
9.5 Other measures of diversity	121
9.6 Multifunctionality	122
9.7 The real world	125
9.8 Species richness and productivity	126
9.9 Conclusions	127
9.9.1 Recommended reading	127
9.9.2 Questions for the future	128
References	128
Part III: Communities	133
10 Organisation at the community scale	133
10.1 The big question	133
10.2 Definitions	133

10.3 Communities in the field	134
10.4 Quantitative approaches	135
10.5 Community structure	137
10.6 Food chains	140
10.7 Food webs	142
10.8 Complexity and stability	145
10.9 Trophic cascades	147
10.10 SAD again	148
10.11 Complex systems	151
10.12 Unified neutral theory	153
10.13 Metabolic theory of ecology	155
10.14 Conclusions	156
10.14.1 Recommended reading	157
10.14.2 Questions for the future	157
References	157
11 Stability	161
11.1 The big question	161
11.2 Stable states	161
11.3 Changing environments	164
11.4 Hysteresis	165
11.5 Predicting changes	167
11.6 Coral reefs	169
11.7 Shifting baselines	170
11.8 Conclusions	173
11.8.1 Recommended reading	174
11.8.2 Questions for the future	175
11.9 Coda: the seduction of Gaia	175
References	176
12 Changes through time	179
12.1 The big question	179
12.2 Succession	179
12.3 Succession and niche theory	180

12.4 Examples of succession	182
12.5 Disturbance	184
12.6 Modelling succession	185
12.7 Regeneration	187
12.8 Plants and animals	188
12.9 Case study: Mpala, Kenya	188
12.10 Conclusions	190
12.10.1 Recommended reading	190
12.10.2 Questions for the future	190
References	191
13 Changes through space	193
13.1 The big question	193
13.2 Community assembly	193
13.2.1 Competitive exclusion	194
13.2.2 Historical processes	196
13.2.3 Habitat checkerboards	197
13.2.4 Chance and contingency	198
13.3 Metacommunities	199
13.4 Dispersal limitation	204
13.5 Combining environment and dispersal	208
13.6 Conclusions	210
13.6.1 Recommended reading	210
13.6.2 Questions for the future	210
References	210
Part IV: Biogeography	
14 Global patterns of life	215
14.1 The big question	215
14.2 Biogeography	215
14.3 Phytogeography	217
14.4 Ecoregions	222
14.5 Empirical approaches	223
14.6 The oceans	225
14.7 Fresh water	228

14.8 Conclusions	228
14.8.1 Recommended reading	229
14.8.2 Questions for the future	229
References	229
15 Regional species richness	233
15.1 The big question	233
15.2 Climate and productivity	234
15.3 Other processes	236
15.4 Scale and productivity	238
15.5 Latitudinal gradients	240
15.6 Centres of origin	243
15.7 Regional species–area relationships	244
15.8 Confounding effects	244
15.9 Conclusions	245
15.9.1 Recommended reading	246
15.9.2 Questions for the future	246
References	246
16 Latitudinal gradients	249
16.1 The big question	249
16.2 Hypotheses	249
16.3 Geographic area	249
16.4 Climatic stability	251
16.5 Productivity	252
16.6 Niche size	253
16.7 Evolutionary speed	254
16.8 Out of the tropics	257
16.9 Conclusions	261
16.9.1 Recommended reading	262
16.9.2 Questions for the future	262
References	262
17 Earth history	265
17.1 The big question	265
17.2 Geological history	265
17.3 Continental drift	266

17.4	Echoes of Pangaea	269
17.5	Climatic effects	272
17.6	Ice ages	274
17.7	Sea level	278
17.8	Extinctions	278
17.9	Conclusions	281
17.9.1	Recommended reading	283
17.9.2	Questions for the future	283
	References	283
18	Dispersal	287
18.1	The big question	287
18.2	Range expansion	287
18.3	Mechanisms of dispersal	289
18.4	Barriers	290
18.5	Case studies	292
18.5.1	New Zealand	292
18.5.2	Madagascar	295
18.6	Conclusions	299
18.6.1	Recommended reading	300
18.6.2	Questions for the future	300
	References	300
19	Life on islands	303
19.1	The big question	303
19.2	Types of island	303
19.3	Island biotas	305
19.4	Evolution of endemics	305
19.5	Size changes	307
19.6	Reproduction and dispersal	310
19.7	Super-generalists	311
19.8	Endemic communities	312
19.9	Disharmony	312
19.10	Assembly rules	314

19.11 Island species richness	314
19.12 The equilibrium model of island biogeography	317
19.13 Testing the theory	319
19.14 Conclusions	320
19.14.1 Recommended reading	320
19.14.2 Questions for the future	320
References	320
20 Reinventing islands	323
20.1 The big question	323
20.2 A critique of EMIB	323
20.3 Rival hypotheses	326
20.4 Disturbance	326
20.5 Relaxation	329
20.6 Extinctions	331
20.7 Invasions	331
20.8 A new theory?	332
20.9 Evolution	333
20.10 Conclusions	338
20.10.1 Recommended reading	338
20.10.2 Questions for the future	338
References	338
21 What is a natural system?	341
21.1 The big question	341
21.2 Lessons learnt	342
21.2.1 Ecological processes are scale dependent	342
21.2.2 All interactions are nested	342
21.2.3 There is no such thing as the balance of nature	342
21.2.4 Everything is contingent	343
21.3 Processes not systems	343
References	344
Appendix A Diversity analysis case study: Butterfly conservation in the Rocky Mountains	345
A.1 Software resources	345
A.2 Calculations	346

A.3 Synthesis	
A.4 Conclusions	
References	
Glossary	
Index	

1.1 Island species diversity	350
1.2 The equilibrium model of island biogeography	351
1.3 Measuring the theory	352
1.4 Conclusions	353
1.5 Appendix 1: Recommended reading	359
1.6 Appendix 2: Questions for the future	

10.1	10.1 The big question	359
10.2	10.2 Types of island	360
10.3	10.3 Island biota	361
10.4	10.4 Evolution of endemism	362
10.5	10.5 Size changes	363
10.6	10.6 Reproduction and dispersal	364
10.7	10.7 Super-generalists	365
10.8	10.8 Endemism revisited	366
10.9	10.9 The Rocky Mountains	367
10.10	10.10 Summary	368
11.1	11.1 The big question	369
11.2	11.2 Types of island	370
11.3	11.3 Island biota	371
11.4	11.4 Evolution of endemism	372
11.5	11.5 Size changes	373
11.6	11.6 Reproduction and dispersal	374
11.7	11.7 Super-generalists	375
11.8	11.8 Endemism revisited	376
11.9	11.9 The Rocky Mountains	377
11.10	11.10 Summary	378
12.1	12.1 The big question	379
12.2	12.2 Types of island	380
12.3	12.3 Island biota	381
12.4	12.4 Evolution of endemism	382
12.5	12.5 Size changes	383
12.6	12.6 Reproduction and dispersal	384
12.7	12.7 Super-generalists	385
12.8	12.8 Endemism revisited	386
12.9	12.9 The Rocky Mountains	387
12.10	12.10 Summary	388
13.1	13.1 The big question	389
13.2	13.2 Types of island	390
13.3	13.3 Island biota	391
13.4	13.4 Evolution of endemism	392
13.5	13.5 Size changes	393
13.6	13.6 Reproduction and dispersal	394
13.7	13.7 Super-generalists	395
13.8	13.8 Endemism revisited	396
13.9	13.9 The Rocky Mountains	397
13.10	13.10 Summary	398
14.1	14.1 The big question	399
14.2	14.2 Types of island	400
14.3	14.3 Island biota	401
14.4	14.4 Evolution of endemism	402
14.5	14.5 Size changes	403
14.6	14.6 Reproduction and dispersal	404
14.7	14.7 Super-generalists	405
14.8	14.8 Endemism revisited	406
14.9	14.9 The Rocky Mountains	407
14.10	14.10 Summary	408
15.1	15.1 The big question	409
15.2	15.2 Types of island	410
15.3	15.3 Island biota	411
15.4	15.4 Evolution of endemism	412
15.5	15.5 Size changes	413
15.6	15.6 Reproduction and dispersal	414
15.7	15.7 Super-generalists	415
15.8	15.8 Endemism revisited	416
15.9	15.9 The Rocky Mountains	417
15.10	15.10 Summary	418
16.1	16.1 The big question	419
16.2	16.2 Types of island	420
16.3	16.3 Island biota	421
16.4	16.4 Evolution of endemism	422
16.5	16.5 Size changes	423
16.6	16.6 Reproduction and dispersal	424
16.7	16.7 Super-generalists	425
16.8	16.8 Endemism revisited	426
16.9	16.9 The Rocky Mountains	427
16.10	16.10 Summary	428
17.1	17.1 The big question	429
17.2	17.2 Types of island	430
17.3	17.3 Island biota	431
17.4	17.4 Evolution of endemism	432
17.5	17.5 Size changes	433
17.6	17.6 Reproduction and dispersal	434
17.7	17.7 Super-generalists	435
17.8	17.8 Endemism revisited	436
17.9	17.9 The Rocky Mountains	437
17.10	17.10 Summary	438
18.1	18.1 The big question	439
18.2	18.2 Types of island	440
18.3	18.3 Island biota	441
18.4	18.4 Evolution of endemism	442
18.5	18.5 Size changes	443
18.6	18.6 Reproduction and dispersal	444
18.7	18.7 Super-generalists	445
18.8	18.8 Endemism revisited	446
18.9	18.9 The Rocky Mountains	447
18.10	18.10 Summary	448
19.1	19.1 The big question	449
19.2	19.2 Types of island	450
19.3	19.3 Island biota	451
19.4	19.4 Evolution of endemism	452
19.5	19.5 Size changes	453
19.6	19.6 Reproduction and dispersal	454
19.7	19.7 Super-generalists	455
19.8	19.8 Endemism revisited	456
19.9	19.9 The Rocky Mountains	457
19.10	19.10 Summary	458
20.1	20.1 The big question	459
20.2	20.2 Types of island	460
20.3	20.3 Island biota	461
20.4	20.4 Evolution of endemism	462
20.5	20.5 Size changes	463
20.6	20.6 Reproduction and dispersal	464
20.7	20.7 Super-generalists	465
20.8	20.8 Endemism revisited	466
20.9	20.9 The Rocky Mountains	467
20.10	20.10 Summary	468
21.1	21.1 The big question	469
21.2	21.2 Types of island	470
21.3	21.3 Island biota	471
21.4	21.4 Evolution of endemism	472
21.5	21.5 Size changes	473
21.6	21.6 Reproduction and dispersal	474
21.7	21.7 Super-generalists	475
21.8	21.8 Endemism revisited	476
21.9	21.9 The Rocky Mountains	477
21.10	21.10 Summary	478
22.1	22.1 The big question	479
22.2	22.2 Types of island	480
22.3	22.3 Island biota	481
22.4	22.4 Evolution of endemism	482
22.5	22.5 Size changes	483
22.6	22.6 Reproduction and dispersal	484
22.7	22.7 Super-generalists	485
22.8	22.8 Endemism revisited	486
22.9	22.9 The Rocky Mountains	487
22.10	22.10 Summary	488
23.1	23.1 The big question	489
23.2	23.2 Types of island	490
23.3	23.3 Island biota	491
23.4	23.4 Evolution of endemism	492
23.5	23.5 Size changes	493
23.6	23.6 Reproduction and dispersal	494
23.7	23.7 Super-generalists	495
23.8	23.8 Endemism revisited	496
23.9	23.9 The Rocky Mountains	497
23.10	23.10 Summary	498
24.1	24.1 The big question	499
24.2	24.2 Types of island	500
24.3	24.3 Island biota	501
24.4	24.4 Evolution of endemism	502
24.5	24.5 Size changes	503
24.6	24.6 Reproduction and dispersal	504
24.7	24.7 Super-generalists	505
24.8	24.8 Endemism revisited	506
24.9	24.9 The Rocky Mountains	507
24.10	24.10 Summary	508
25.1	25.1 The big question	509
25.2	25.2 Types of island	510
25.3	25.3 Island biota	511
25.4	25.4 Evolution of endemism	512
25.5	25.5 Size changes	513
25.6	25.6 Reproduction and dispersal	514
25.7	25.7 Super-generalists	515
25.8	25.8 Endemism revisited	516
25.9	25.9 The Rocky Mountains	517
25.10	25.10 Summary	518
26.1	26.1 The big question	519
26.2	26.2 Types of island	520
26.3	26.3 Island biota	521
26.4	26.4 Evolution of endemism	522
26.5	26.5 Size changes	523
26.6	26.6 Reproduction and dispersal	524
26.7	26.7 Super-generalists	525
26.8	26.8 Endemism revisited	526
26.9	26.9 The Rocky Mountains	527
26.10	26.10 Summary	528
27.1	27.1 The big question	529
27.2	27.2 Types of island	530
27.3	27.3 Island biota	531
27.4	27.4 Evolution of endemism	532
27.5	27.5 Size changes	533
27.6	27.6 Reproduction and dispersal	534
27.7	27.7 Super-generalists	535
27.8	27.8 Endemism revisited	536
27.9	27.9 The Rocky Mountains	537
27.10	27.10 Summary	538
28.1	28.1 The big question	539
28.2	28.2 Types of island	540
28.3	28.3 Island biota	541
28.4	28.4 Evolution of endemism	542
28.5	28.5 Size changes	543
28.6	28.6 Reproduction and dispersal	544
28.7	28.7 Super-generalists	545
28.8	28.8 Endemism revisited	546
28.9	28.9 The Rocky Mountains	547
28.10	28.10 Summary	548
29.1	29.1 The big question	549
29.2	29.2 Types of island	550
29.3	29.3 Island biota	551
29.4	29.4 Evolution of endemism	552
29.5	29.5 Size changes	553
29.6	29.6 Reproduction and dispersal	554
29.7	29.7 Super-generalists	555
29.8	29.8 Endemism revisited	556
29.9	29.9 The Rocky Mountains	557
29.10	29.10 Summary	558
30.1	30.1 The big question	559
30.2	30.2 Types of island	560
30.3	30.3 Island biota	561
30.4	30.4 Evolution of endemism	562
30.5	30.5 Size changes	563
30.6	30.6 Reproduction and dispersal	564
30.7	30.7 Super-generalists	565
30.8	30.8 Endemism revisited	566
30.9	30.9 The Rocky Mountains	567
30.10	30.10 Summary	568
31.1	31.1 The big question	569
31.2	31.2 Types of island	570
31.3	31.3 Island biota	571
31.4	31.4 Evolution of endemism	572
31.5	31.5 Size changes	573
31.6	31.6 Reproduction and dispersal	574
31.7	31.7 Super-generalists	575
31.8	31.8 Endemism revisited	576
31.9	31.9 The Rocky Mountains	577
31.10	31.10 Summary	578
32.1	32.1 The big question	579
32.2	32.2 Types of island	580
32.3	32.3 Island biota	581
32.4	32.4 Evolution of endemism	582
32.5	32.5 Size changes	583
32.6	32.6 Reproduction and dispersal	584
32.7	32.7 Super-generalists	585
32.8	32.8 Endemism revisited	586
32.9	32.9 The Rocky Mountains	587
32.10	32.10 Summary	588
33.1	33.1 The big question	589
33.2	33.2 Types of island	590
33.3	33.3 Island biota	591
33.4	33.4 Evolution of endemism	592
33.5	33.5 Size changes	593
33.6	33.6 Reproduction and dispersal	594
33.7	33.7 Super-generalists	595
33.8	33.8 Endemism revisited	596
33.9	33.9 The Rocky Mountains	597
33.10	33.10 Summary	598
34.1	34.1 The big question	599
34.2	34.2 Types of island	600
34.3	34.3 Island biota	601
34.4	34.4 Evolution of endemism	602
34.5	34.5 Size changes	603
34.6	34.6 Reproduction and dispersal	604
34.7	34.7 Super-generalists	605
34.8	34.8 Endemism revisited	606
34.9	34.9 The Rocky Mountains	607
34.10	34.10 Summary	608
35.1	35.1 The big question	609
35.2	35.2 Types of island	610
35.3	35.3 Island biota	611
35.4	35.4 Evolution of endemism	612
35.5	35.5 Size changes	613
35.6	35.6 Reproduction and dispersal	614
35.7	35.7 Super-generalists	615
35.8	35.8 Endemism revisited	616
35.9	35.9 The Rocky Mountains	617
35.10	35.10 Summary	618
36.1	36.1 The big question	619
36.2	36.2 Types of island	620
36.3	36.3 Island biota	621
36.4	36.4 Evolution of endemism	622
36.5	36.5 Size changes	623
36.6	36.6 Reproduction and dispersal	624
36.7	36.7 Super-generalists	625
36.8	36.8 Endemism revisited	626
36.9	36.9 The Rocky Mountains	627
36.10	36.10 Summary	628
37.1	37.1 The big question	629
37.2	37.2 Types of island	630
37.3	37.3 Island biota	631
37.4	37.4 Evolution of endemism	632
37.5	37.5 Size changes	633
37.6	37.6 Reproduction and dispersal	634
37.7	37.7 Super-generalists	635
37.8	37.8 Endemism revisited	636
37.9	37.9 The Rocky Mountains	637
37.10	37.10 Summary	638
38.1	38.1 The big question	639
38.2	38.2 Types of island	640
38.3	38.3 Island biota	641
38.4	38.4 Evolution of endemism	642
38.5	38.5 Size changes	643
38.6	38.6 Reproduction and dispersal	644
38.7	38.7 Super-generalists	645
38.8	38.8 Endemism revisited	646
38.9	38.9 The Rocky Mountains	647
38.10	38.10 Summary	648
39.1	39.1 The big question	649
39.2	39.2 Types of island	650
39.3	39.3 Island biota	651
39.4	39.4 Evolution of endemism	652
39.5	39.5 Size changes	653
39.6	39.6 Reproduction and dispersal	654
39.7	39.7 Super-generalists	655
39.8	39.8 Endemism revisited	656
39.9	39.9 The Rocky Mountains	657
39.10	39.10 Summary	658
40.1	40.1 The big question	659
40.2	40.2 Types of island	660
40.3	40.3 Island biota	661
40.4	40.4 Evolution of endemism	662
40.5	40.5 Size changes	663
40.6	40.6 Reproduction and dispersal	664
40.7	40.7 Super-generalists	665
40.8	40.8 Endemism revisited	666
40.9	40.9 The Rocky Mountains	667
40.10	40.10 Summary	668
41.1	41.1 The big question	669
41.2	41.2 Types of island	670
41.3	41.3 Island biota	671
41.4	41.4 Evolution of endemism	672
41.5	41.5 Size changes	673
41.6	41.6 Reproduction and dispersal	674
41.7	41.7 Super-generalists	675
41.8	41.8 Endemism revisited	676
41.9	41.9 The Rocky Mountains	677
41.10	41.10 Summary	678
42.1	42.1 The big question	679
42.2	42.2 Types of island	680
42.3	42.3 Island biota	681
42.4	42.4 Evolution of endemism	682
42.5	42.5 Size changes	683
42.6	42.6 Reproduction and dispersal	684
42.7	42.7 Super-generalists	685
42.8	42.8 Endemism revisited	686
42.9	42.9 The Rocky Mountains	687
42.10	42.10 Summary	688
43.1	43.1 The big question	689
43.2	43.2 Types of island	690
43.3	43.3 Island biota	691
43.4	43.4 Evolution of endemism	692
43.5	43.5 Size changes	693
43.6	43.6 Reproduction and dispersal	694
43.7	43.7 Super-generalists	695
43.8	43.8 Endemism revisited	696
43.9	43.9 The Rocky Mountains	697
43.10	43.10 Summary	698
44.1	44.1 The big question	699
44.2	44.2 Types of island	700
44.3	44.3 Island biota	701
44.4	44.4 Evolution of endemism	702
44.5	44.5 Size changes	703
44.6	44.6 Reproduction and dispersal	704
44.7	44.7 Super-generalists	705
44.8	44.8 Endemism revisited	706
44.9	44.9 The Rocky Mountains	707
44.10	44.10 Summary	708
45.1	45.1 The big question	709
45.2	45.2 Types of island	710
45.3	45.3 Island biota	711
45.4	45.4 Evolution of endemism	712
45.5	45.5 Size changes	713
45.6	45.6 Reproduction and dispersal	714
45.7	45.7 Super-generalists	715
45.8	45.8 Endemism revisited	716
45.9	45.9 The Rocky Mountains	717
45.10	45.10 Summary	718
46.1	46.1 The big question	719
46.2	46.2 Types of island	720
46.3	46.3 Island biota	721
46.4	46.4 Evolution of endemism	722
46.5	46.5 Size changes	723
46.6	46.6 Reproduction and dispersal	724
46.7	46.7 Super-generalists	725
46.8	46.8 Endemism revisited	726
46.9	46.9 The Rocky Mountains	727
46.10	46.10 Summary	