

Preface

CABI and I are pleased to offer the third edition of *Seeds: The Ecology of Regeneration in Plant Communities*, building on the first two outstanding editions by Michael Fenner in 1992 and 2000. It was an honour to serve as the editor for this edition, as the first two editions played an important role in shaping my thinking and study of seed banks and seed ecology/physiology during my graduate studies and the early stages of my academic career. As in the previous editions, the goal of this edition is to provide a detailed overview of seed ecophysiology and its role in shaping plant communities.

In this edition, I encouraged many of the contributors of previous editions to also contribute here. As such, I am pleased to see updated return contributions on frugivory (Chapter 2), seed dispersal (Chapter 3), seed predation (Chapter 4), light-mediated germination responses (Chapter 5), chemical regulation of germination (Chapter 6) and seed dormancy (Chapter 7). New chapter contributions with a mechanistic emphasis include an overview of seed development, anatomy and morphology (Chapter 1), and the chemical ecology of seed persistence (Chapter 8). New chapter contributions that have more of a synthesis emphasis cover the implications of climate change on the regeneration by seeds (Chapter 9) and the functional role of seed banks in agricultural (Chapter 10) and natural (Chapter 11) ecosystems. In all, 19 authors have contributed to this edition, with a mix of well-established and emerging young scientists.

As editor, I tried to give the contributing authors considerable creative and intellectual licence. As such, the chapters are not stylistically identical. I have also tried to provide a good level of continuity between the chapters, adding notes to link overlapping concepts and subject matter among the chapters. In the end, however, each chapter represents the thinking of the contributing authors and not this editor.

I was very pleased with how thoroughly the contributing authors integrated the more classic foundation literature with that more recently published. As such, I hope this book will serve as a highly comprehensive review resource for new students of seed ecology and plant community regeneration, as well as an update for the more seasoned and experienced scientist.

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