

Preface

This book is the second and extended version of *Microclimate, Vegetation and Fauna* (Opulus Press AB, 1992), after a Dutch text "Mikroklimaat, Vegetatie en Fauna" (Pudoc, Wageningen, 1987) written by the late Jan.J.Barkman and myself.

From several sides it was suggested that an English translation of the book would be worthwhile. Jan and I had just agreed with our friends Marijke and Eddy van der Maarel, that they would take care of the translation and have the English edition published by Opulus Press, when we received the message of Jan's sudden death, September 1989. In his last letter he asked me to make sure that the sequence of our names, which by mistake was reversed on the cover of the Dutch edition, should be right this time.

Our aim in writing this book was to consider microclimate from an ecological point of view. Herein we stress the great physical diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats, a diversity which to a large extent is created by biological forces and at the same time is a condition which maintains biological diversity. Of necessity, we also consider the physical and biological interaction of plants and animals with their immediate atmospheric environment.

Several other texts, especially physical ones, have dealt with aspects of microclimate. Nevertheless, we thought that there was room for a more ecological approach, which did not overlap too much with these more general texts. We have deliberately reduced the treatment of those subjects which received a great deal of attention in other textbooks, while, on the other hand, we have been more extensive where we could offer our own new findings, or where our treatment could make a topic more understandable.

The reader who would like to read more on the subject will find much of interest in books cited in the References, particularly those marked with an asterisk.

The book is written for ecologically interested vegetation scientists, plant and animal ecologists, biogeographers, foresters and agriculturists. Biologically interested climatologists, geographers, environmental scientists, landscape planners and amateur naturalists with some physical background may possibly find something useful in it as well.

Since the present book is based on the Dutch edition mentioned above, I acknowledge first of all the Agricultural University of Wageningen, the Netherlands, for financial help with the publication of the Dutch book and I thank H. J. During, Utrecht and J. C. H. van der Hage, Utrecht, who reviewed the Dutch manuscript.

With regard to the present book, I acknowledge the permission of Pudoc Publishers, Wageningen to reproduce the figures from the Dutch edition. Marijke and Eddy van der Maarel took care of the English translation; Eddy van der Maarel and Martin Sykes, Uppsala University, provided valuable comments and literature. My wife, Martien, helped in many respects to make this publication possible. To all those I extend my sincere gratitude.

After over a half century I found back Dr. Christa Deeleman-Reinhold. I thank her very much for all her support in preparing this new edition, Herbert Diemont for communication with KNNV publishers and prof. Henk Siepel (Wageningen University) for reading chapter 6.

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