

Assembled here for the first time in one volume are forty classic papers that have laid the foundations of modern ecology. Whether by posing new problems, demonstrating important effects, or stimulating new research, these papers have made substantial contributions to an understanding of ecological processes, and they continue to influence the field today.

Beginning with Stephen A. Forbes's 1887 article, "The Lake as a Microcosm," the selections span nearly nine decades of ecological research and reveal a striking variety of approaches. They range from the encyclopedic "Pattern and Process in the Plant Community" by Alex S. Watt (1947) to an elegant account by Joseph H. Connell of his experiments with barnacles (1961), from Joseph Grinnell's visionary exposition of the concept of niche (1917) to a seminal essay by G. E. Hutchinson on diversity (1959).

The papers in *Foundations of Ecology* are organized in six sections: foundational papers, theoretical advances, synthetic statements, methodological developments, field studies, and experiments in ecology. To add to the value of the papers themselves, contemporary ecologists and a historian of ecology introduce each section with an original essay that places the papers in context and discusses their continued relevance to current research. This combination of classic papers and fresh commentaries makes *Foundations of Ecology* both a convenient reference to papers often cited today and an essential guide to the intellectual and conceptual roots of the field.

The forty papers included in *Foundations of Ecology* were compiled by Leslie A. Real and James H. Brown and an editorial board consisting of Linda B. Brubaker, Sharon E. Kingsland, Joel G. Kingsolver, Jane Lubchenco, Robert K. Peet, and Peter Vitousek.

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