

Much of what is considered conventional wisdom about succession isn't as clear cut as it is generally believed. Yet, the importance of succession in ecology is undisputed, since it offers a real insight into the dynamics and structure of all plant communities.

Part monograph and part conceptual treatise, *An Integrative Approach to Successional Dynamics* presents a unifying conceptual framework for dynamic plant communities and uses a unique long-term data set to explore the utility of that framework.

The fourteen chapters, each written in a non-technical style and accompanied by numerous illustrations and examples, cover diverse aspects of succession, including community, population and disturbance dynamics, diversity, community assembly, heterogeneity, functional ecology, and biological invasion. This unique text will be a great source of reference for researchers and graduate students in ecology and plant biology, and others with an interest in the subject.

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Cover illustration: *Cornus racemosa*, a bird-dispersed, clonal shrub common in mid-successional communities. Image courtesy of Scott J. Meiners.

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