



Plants are so much part of our environment that we often take them for granted, yet beautiful, fascinating and useful plants are everywhere, from isolated moss colonies on stone walls to vast complex communities within tropical rainforests. How did this array of form and habitat come about, and how do we humans interact with the plant kingdom? This book provides a refreshing and stimulating consideration of these questions and throws light in a new way on the complexity, ecology, evolution and development of plants and our relationship with them.

Coverage includes:

- the origin of photosynthetic organisms
- growth and differentiation
- interaction with the environment
- reproduction and dispersal
- phylogeny
- adaptation to habitat
- plant uses
- history of botanical study.

Illustrated throughout with numerous line diagrams and beautiful colour photographs, the book provides a unique source of information about the fascinating lives that plants lead and the way in which our lives are inextricably linked to theirs. It will be particularly useful to those seeking a more ecological and process-orientated approach than is available in other textbooks.

Cover illustrations: front cover, Water Lily, *Nymphaea pubescens* (Nymphaeaceae), Thale Noi, Lake Songkla, Thailand; back cover, Korean fir, *Abies koreana* (Pinaceae) at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, illustrations courtesy of Bill Eddie

MARTIN J. INGROUILLE is a senior lecturer at Birkbeck, University of London, where he teaches botany, genetics, ecology, biogeography and evolution, and researches the evolutionary ecology and systematics of plants. He has travelled widely during the course of his studies, including to Europe, North and Central America, East Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He is the author of the widely adopted textbook *Diversity and Evolution of Land Plants* (1992) from which this present book has been developed.

BILL EDDIE is a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, where he teaches botany, ornithology, evolution and geopoetics as part of the University's Open Studies programme. His research focuses on the evolutionary ecology and systematics of plants and birds, and he has a particular interest in the history of botany, and in birds and wildlife in art. He has travelled widely during the course of his career, including to Europe, North and Central America, Central and Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia and has held a 4-year teaching post in Papua New Guinea.

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-79433-6

