

A dictionary for use by students, teachers, lecturers and research workers with an interest in the natural history of plants and animals. This popular field of study has wide ranging scope and does not fit neatly into any single classical discipline, but is best delimited by the three words of the title – *ecology, evolution, systematics*. Ecology is the study of the complex interrelationships between living organisms and their environment (ecosystems, communities, populations, species, trophic structures, productivity, energetics, dynamics, associations, distribution, ecological/behavioural/physiological strategies etc.). Evolution encapsulates those processes producing change in organisms and groups with time (genetics, heredity, reproductive strategies, variation, adaptation, selection, speciation, phylogeny). Systematics is the methodology of identification, nomenclature, classification, and assessment of the evolutionary relationships of species and groups. A wide selection of statistical terms has also been incorporated to cater for the increasing dependence of biology upon quantitative method. The style of the Dictionary is not one of etymology and strict limitation of application – it is much more a working dictionary for the practising biologist that provides essential explanations in line with current usage(s). The great breadth of coverage reflects the immense scope of literature and other reading material that confronts today's biologists.

*Some reviewers' comments*

'All biologists, whether students, research workers or amateurs, need dictionaries and perhaps never more than at the present time. It is a common complaint, especially among ecologists and systematists, that there is no comprehensive and up-to-date dictionary at present available. This volume should meet their needs in every way.' *Biological Conservation*

'How does one adequately judge a dictionary? I have given this one three tests, and on all it has passed with flying colours: it defines my pet concepts adequately and non-tautologically; it informed me about the meaning of a number of words which I have never properly understood; and it contributed positively to my daughter's A-level homework.' *Biologist*