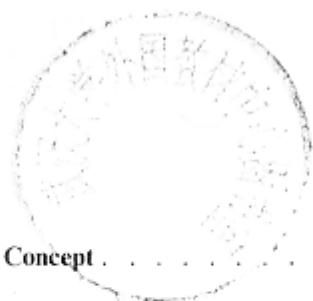


Contents



A. Ecology: the Basic Concept	1
B. Autecology	3
I. Theory of Autecology	5
II. The Range of Ecological Factors	6
III. Life-Form Types	6
IV. Ecological Factors	13
1. Salinity and Osmotic Pressure	13
2. Temperature	24
3. Nutrition	37
4. Light	52
5. Oxygen Supply	57
6. Fire	60
7. Interspecific Competition	62
8. The Conspecific as an Environmental Factor	73
9. Ecological Neurobiology	75
10. Other Ecological Factors	80
11. Periodic Changes in the Habitat	80
12. The Interaction of Environmental Factors	85
13. Special Problems	93
V. Case Studies in Autecology	94
1. Surface Chemistry and Choice of Biotope	94
2. Synchronization with Habitat Conditions	96
3. The Biology of Game Animals: Capercaillie and Roe Deer	100
C. Population Ecology	107
I. Theory of Population Ecology	109
II. Population Genetics	110
III. Demography	115
IV. The Distribution of Organisms in Space	121
V. Maintenance of an Average Population Density	126
1. Autoregulation	126
2. Predator-Prey Systems	133
3. Food Supply and Population Density	155
4. Abiotic Factors and Population Density	158

VI. Case Studies in Population Ecology	161
1. Euphydryas: the Splitting of a Species into Separate Populations	161
2. Field Crickets: the Mechanisms Underlying Population Dynamics.	164
3. Bat and Moth: the Coevolution of a Predator-Prey System.	168
4. Larus: the Fusion of Species	173

D. Ecosystems 177

I. Theory of Ecosystems	179
II. "Natural" Ecosystems	181
III. The Climax Concept: Microcosmic and Seral Successions	182
IV. Statics of Ecosystems	185
V. Ecosystem Dynamics.	192
1. The Cycling of Matter in Ecosystems	192
a) The Circulation of Water	193
b) Cycling of Other Materials	194
2. The Energy in Ecosystems	198
a) Productivity	198
b) Measurement of a Stand	206
c) Food Chains and Food Webs	209
d) Energy Flux	211
VI. The Significance of Animals in an Ecosystem	226
VII. Changeable and Constant Ecosystems	231
VIII. Constancy and Stability	240
IX. Case Studies of Ecosystems	250
1. Lake Nakuru (Kenya)	250
2. Spitsbergen	253
3. Central Europe	261

E. Outlook 267

References 273

General Books on Subjects Related to Ecology 284

Subject Index 285