

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Chapter 1 Tropical rain forests: myths and inspirations	1
Defining rain forests	3
This book	5
SECTION I THE NATURAL HERITAGE	
Chapter 2 An exuberance of plant life	9
2.1 Botanical overview	9
2.1.1 Angiosperms: the flowering plants	10
2.1.2 Gymnosperms	11
2.1.3 Pteridophytes	13
2.1.4 Bryophytes and allied taxa	15
2.2 Diverse forms	15
2.2.1 An introduction to leaves	16
2.2.2 Trees, shrubs, and treelets	18
2.2.3 Climbers	23
2.2.4 Epiphytes	23
2.2.5 Hemi-epiphytes	26
2.2.6 Herbs	26
2.2.7 Carnivores	28
2.2.8 Parasites	28
2.2.9 Saprophytes	30
2.3 Conclusion	31

Chapter 3	The great unseen: fungi and microorganisms	33
3.1	Fungi	33
3.1.1	Mycorrhizas	33
3.1.2	Endophytes	36
3.1.3	Saprophytes	37
3.1.4	Pathogens of plants	38
3.1.5	Pathogens of insects	40
3.1.6	Insect symbionts	40
3.2	Lichens	41
3.3	Other microorganisms	42
3.4	Conclusion	43
Chapter 4	More than monkeys: the vertebrates	45
4.1	Mammals	46
4.1.1	Primates	47
4.1.2	Bats	52
4.1.3	Ground-dwelling herbivores	52
4.1.4	Rodents	53
4.1.5	Carnivores	54
4.1.6	Sloths, anteaters, and pangolins	55
4.1.7	New mammalian species	56
4.2	Birds	56
4.2.1	Distribution of major bird groups	57
4.2.2	Feeding guilds	58
4.3	Amphibians and Reptiles	63
4.3.1	Amphibians	63
4.3.2	Reptiles	65
4.4	Fish	68
4.5	Conclusion	70
Chapter 5	The little things: invertebrates	71
5.1	Insects	74
5.1.1	Butterflies and moths	74
5.1.2	Beetles	78
5.1.3	The social insects: ants, bees, wasps, and termites	80
5.1.4	Other insects	87
5.2	Other invertebrate groups	91
5.2.1	Arachnids	91
5.2.2	Annelids: earthworms and leeches	92
5.2.3	Miscellaneous others	93
5.3	Conclusion	95

SECTION II ORIGINS, PATTERNS, AND PROCESSES

Chapter 6	From the beginning: origins and transformation	99
6.1	Ancient forests	99
6.1.1	Mushrooms with a view	99
6.1.2	Devonian to Carboniferous: the first tropical forests sow their own downfall	99
6.1.3	Carboniferous: the age of forest carbon	101
6.1.4	The Mesozoic: browsing dinosaurs	102
6.1.5	The Tertiary: climate change	104
6.2	The rain forest pick 'n' mix	107
6.2.1	Land routes	109
6.2.2	Trans-oceanic movements	116
6.2.3	Communities: chance assembly versus dependent webs	119
6.3	Regional themes and variations: a brief biogeography of quirks	120
6.3.1	Continental Africa	120
6.3.2	Madagascar	121
6.3.3	Americas	122
6.3.4	Asia	123
6.3.5	New Guinea and Australia	124
6.3.6	Oceanic and continental islands	125
6.4	Conclusion	126
Chapter 7	Many rain forests: formations and ecotones	129
7.1	Forest types	129
7.1.1	Non-seasonal lowland rain forest	130
7.1.2	Seasonal rain forest	131
7.1.3	The wet-dry and the latitudinal ecotones	132
7.1.4	Montane rain forests and 'cloud forests'	132
7.1.5	Freshwater swamp forests	134
7.1.6	Heath forests	136
7.1.7	Peat forests	137
7.1.8	Mangroves	138
7.1.9	Other rain forest formations	138
7.2	Secondary forests	142
7.3	Rain forest landscapes	143
7.3.1	Landscape variation	143
7.3.2	Contexts and boundaries	143
7.3.3	Local features	145
7.4	Forest structure	146
7.4.1	Stem packing	146
7.4.2	Canopies, strata, and spaces	146

7.4.3	Microclimates	148
7.4.4	Illumination	149
7.4.5	Gaps	151
7.5	Conclusion	153
Chapter 8	So many species, so many theories	155
8.1	Restricted range species and widespread generalists	157
8.1.1	Restricted range species	157
8.1.2	Widespread species	159
8.2	Alpha- and beta-diversity	159
8.2.1	Environmental factors underlying alpha-diversity	162
8.2.2	Environmental variability and beta-diversity	163
8.3	Why are there more species in the tropics? Global and regional perspectives	164
8.3.1	Evolutionary and biogeographic explanations of species diversity	164
8.3.2	Ecological mechanisms for the maintenance of species diversity	170
8.4	Conclusion	177
Chapter 9	Processes and cycles	179
9.1	Climate and weather	179
9.1.1	The climate of tropical rain forest regions	181
9.2	Atmospheric chemistry	181
9.2.1	Trace gases	181
9.2.2	Lungs of the world?	183
9.3	Soils	184
9.3.1	Principal soil types	184
9.3.2	Other soil types	186
9.4	Nutrient cycling	186
9.4.1	Nutrient-holding capacity and stocks	187
9.4.2	Flows	187
9.4.3	Decomposition	188
9.4.4	Soil biota	188
9.4.5	Nutrient losses	189
9.5	Productivity, biomass, and carbon	190
9.5.1	Total carbon stores	190
9.5.2	How productive are tropical rain forests?	190
9.6	Hydrology and land stability	192
9.6.1	Outputs: why forests evaporate so much water	193
9.6.2	Inputs	193
9.6.3	Protection roles	194
9.7	Conclusion	195

Chapter 10	Plant form and function: what it takes to survive	197
10.1	Energy capture: light and shade	197
10.1.1	Catching sunshine	198
10.1.2	Changing irradiance	201
10.2	Water	207
10.2.1	Transpiration: water and CO ₂	207
10.3	Nutrients and soil chemistry	208
10.4	Growth and survival in the space race	213
10.5	Sun trees, shade trees: pioneer and 'climax' species	215
10.5.1	Pioneers	220
10.5.2	Climax species	221
10.5.3	Shade tolerance	221
10.6	Functional traits as predictors of demographic rates	222
10.7	Conclusion	227
Chapter 11	The ever changing forest: disturbance and dynamics	229
11.1	Disturbance	229
11.1.1	Gaps and tree falls	230
11.1.2	Landslides	234
11.1.3	Floods and rivers	234
11.1.4	Wind	235
11.1.5	Drought	237
11.1.6	Fire	238
11.2	Patterns in space and time	239
11.2.1	Succession—forest colonization and recovery	240
11.2.2	Turnover	244
11.2.3	Resilience and climax communities	245
11.3	Conclusion	246
Chapter 12	The bloomin' rainforests: how flowering plants reproduce	247
12.1	Flowering	247
12.1.1	Phenology	248
12.1.2	Breeding systems	249
12.1.3	Pollination	252
12.2	Seed set	259
12.2.1	Seed predation	260
12.2.2	Seed size, production, and dispersal	261
12.2.3	Agents of dispersal	262
12.2.4	Evolutionary implications of clumped versus scattered seed dispersal	271
12.3	Genetic neighbourhoods	272

12.4	Seed dormancy and germination	273
12.4.1	Seed dormancy	273
12.4.2	Germination	275
12.5	Vegetative regeneration	276
12.6	Conclusion	277

Chapter 13 Nature's society: life's interactions 279

13.1	Herbivory (and plant responses to it)	280
13.1.1	Plant defences	281
13.1.2	Managing mercenaries	283
13.1.3	Diet specialization in insects	284
13.1.4	Ecological impacts of herbivory	284
13.2	Ant-mediated interactions	285
13.2.1	Ant-fed plants, ant gardens, and devil's gardens	285
13.2.2	Leafcutter ants	287
13.3	Interactions across multiple trophic levels	288
13.3.1	Food webs	288
13.3.2	Trophic cascades	290
13.4	Animal diseases and parasitism	291
13.5	Conclusion	292

SECTION III OUR FUTURE LEGACY

Chapter 14 Forests in the Anthropocene 295

14.1	Humans arrive: Pleistocene and Holocene extinctions	296
14.1.1	Prehistoric legacies of human occupation	298
14.1.2	Paleohuman settlements	299
14.1.3	Forest recovery and concepts of 'naturalness'	304
14.2	European expansion	304
14.3	Tropical rain forest degradation and loss in the industrial era	308
14.4	Drivers of deforestation	311
14.4.1	Deforestation history in Brazil	315
14.4.2	Deforestation history in Asia	316
14.4.3	Direct causes of forest loss and degradation	317
14.5	Regional and global atmospheric change	321
14.6	Conclusion	325

Chapter 15 People of the forest: livelihoods and welfare 327

15.1	Indigenous people	327
15.1.1	Diversity of rain forest peoples	329

15.2	Farming the forests	329
15.2.1	Shifting cultivation	331
15.2.2	Agroforestry	333
15.3	Forest products	334
15.3.1	Animal resources	334
15.3.2	Plant resources	338
15.4	Human health	338
15.4.1	Infectious diseases in the rain forest	341
15.4.2	Medicinal species	344
15.4.3	Psychoactive plants	347
15.4.4	Growing trade and declining supply	348
15.5	Forests, subsistence, and poverty	348
15.6	Conclusion	350
Chapter 16	Biodiversity in a changing world	351
16.1	How many species are going extinct?	356
16.1.1	Extinction proneness and coextinctions	357
16.2	Causes of biodiversity decline	359
16.2.1	Logging	359
16.2.2	Fragmentation and edge effects	363
16.2.3	Hunting	366
16.2.4	Species introductions	367
16.3	Conclusion	369
Chapter 17	A matter for scientists and society: conserving forested landscapes	371
17.1	Defined conservation areas	372
17.1.1	Protected area systems	372
17.1.2	Indigenous and extractive reserves	376
17.1.3	Conservation concessions	377
17.1.4	Debt-for-nature swaps	378
17.2	Conservation and livelihoods: biodiversity as business?	379
17.2.1	Sustainable forest management and Reduced Impact Logging	380
17.2.2	Forest certification	381
17.2.3	Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	384
17.2.4	Ecotourism	385
17.2.5	Payments for Environmental Services (PES)	387
17.2.6	Bioprospecting and intellectual property rights	388
17.2.7	Land sparing vs. wildlife-friendly farming	389
17.3	Governance and land ownership	390
17.3.1	Poor governance and corruption	391
17.3.2	Land ownership	391

17.3.3	The Kyoto Protocol	393
17.3.4	REDD alert	394
17.4	Conclusion	396
Chapter 18	Requiem or revival	399
18.1	A question of societal will	399
18.2	What role for scientists?	400
18.3	Societal oversight	403
18.4	Final words	404
	Glossary	407
	References	423
	Index	505