
Contents

Preface.....	xi
Authors	xiii

Section I Introduction

1. The Ecosystem as an Object for Research	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Holism versus Reductionism	4
1.3 Interpreting Ecosystem Reality	5
1.4 Ecosystem Structure	7
1.5 Complexity and Self-Organization	8
1.6 Energy Flows through the Biosphere	10
1.7 Brief History of the Biosphere	14
2. Conservation Principles	17
2.1 Introduction	17
2.2 Space Conservation	17
2.3 Mass Conservation	18
2.4 Energy Conservation: Thermodynamics' First Principle	19
2.5 Information	20
3. Energy Dissipation	23
3.1 Introduction	23
3.2 The Second Principle	24
3.3 Dissipative Structures	28
3.4 Irreversible Processes	29
3.5 Entropy Production	31
4. A Perspective from Information and Systems Theory	35
4.1 Introduction	35
4.2 Information: Definition and Measure	37
4.3 Thermodynamic Entropy and Shannon's Information	41
4.4 Solar Energy and Information	42
4.5 Ecological Network Analysis	48
4.6 Exergy	53
5. Ecological Processes: An Overview	67

Section II Physical Processes

6. Space and Time	73
6.1 Introduction	73
6.2 Scale and Hierarchy	73
6.3 Space Delimitation: Boundaries	76
6.4 Flows through Open Systems	78
6.5 Equilibrium, Stability, and Steady State	80
7. Mass Transport	85
7.1 Introduction	85
7.2 Advection and Diffusion	86
7.3 Dispersion	89
7.4 Mass Balance and Reactors	90
7.5 Settling and Resuspension	94
7.6 Transport in Porous Media	99
7.7 Transport at Interfaces	103
7.8 Reaeration	108
7.9 Volatilization	109
7.10 Transport over Membranes	110
8. Energetic Factors	115
8.1 Introduction	115
8.2 Solar Radiation	115
8.3 Light Extinction	117
8.4 Evapotranspiration	120
8.5 Effects of Waves in Aquatic Ecosystems	124

Section III Chemical Processes

9. Chemical Reactions	131
9.1 Introduction	131
9.2 Chemical Equilibrium	135
9.3 Enzymatic Processes	140
9.4 Redox	145
9.5 Acid-Base	149
9.6 Solutions, Precipitation, and Flocculation	156
10. Chemical Lysis	161
10.1 Introduction	161
10.2 Hydrolysis	161
10.3 Proteolysis	163
10.4 Photolysis	164

11. Phase Partition	167
11.1 Introduction	167
11.2 Adsorption and Partition of Organic Compounds	169
11.3 Ion Exchange	175
11.4 Complex Formation	178
11.5 Activities and Activity Coefficients	179

Section IV Biological Processes

12. Biogeochemical Cycles	187
12.1 Introduction	187
12.2 Oxygen Cycle	191
12.3 Aerobic and Anaerobic Conditions	195
12.4 Carbon Cycle and Biosphere Stability Conditions	197
12.5 Nitrogen Cycle	201
12.6 Phosphorus Cycle	206
13. Photosynthesis	209
14. Growth	213
14.1 Introduction	213
14.2 Metabolic Growth Model	215
14.3 Allometric Principles	218
15. Primary Production	223
15.1 Introduction	223
15.2 Limitation	224
15.2.1 Rationale behind Michaelis-Menten	224
15.2.2 Nutrient Limitation	225
15.2.3 Temperature Dependence	226
15.2.4 Light Dependence	228
15.2.5 Colimitation	228
15.3 Respiration	229
15.4 Nutrient and Metal Uptake	232
15.5 Excretion	234
15.6 Fixation	235
15.7 Mortality	236
16. Production of Upper Trophic Levels	239
16.1 Introduction	239
16.2 Grazing	241
16.3 Predation	243

17. Microbial Processes	247
17.1 Introduction	247
17.2 Microbial Loop	248
17.3 Role of Detritus.....	250
17.4 Biological Decomposition	251
18. Ecotoxicological Processes	255
18.1 Introduction	255
18.2 Biodegradation	255
18.3 Bioaccumulation, Bioconcentration, and Biomagnification	258
18.4 Equilibrium between Spheres: Partition of Toxic Substances among Air, Water, Soil, and Biota.....	261
18.4.1 Atmosphere-Hydrosphere (Henry's Law)	262
18.4.2 Hydrosphere-Lithosphere (Adsorption)	262
18.4.3 Hydrosphere-Biosphere, Atmosphere-Biosphere, and Lithosphere-Biosphere.....	263
19. Biological Interactions	265
19.1 Introduction	265
19.2 Adaptation and Shift in Species' Composition.....	266
19.3 Competition	272
19.4 Other Biological Interactions.....	274
19.5 Trophic Networks	275

Section V Landscape Processes

20. Aquatic Ecosystems	283
20.1 Introduction	283
20.2 Eutrophication	283
20.3 Lakes	285
20.4 Wetlands, Transitional Water Ecosystems.....	287
20.5 Rivers	290
20.6 Open Sea.....	293
20.7 Fishery	296
21. Terrestrial Ecosystems	299
21.1 Introduction	299
21.2 Decomposition of Organic Matter in Soil.....	299
21.3 Toxic Substances in Soil	300
21.4 Erosion and Leaching.....	302
21.5 Ecosystem Transitions	303

22. Landscapes and Urban Ecosystems	305
22.1 Introduction	305
22.2 Landscape Processes	306
22.3 Population Growth	307
22.4 Environmental Processes and Urban Ecosystems	311
22.5 Urban Solid Waste Management	314
23. The Atmosphere.....	317
23.1 Introduction	317
23.2 Atmospheric Pollution by Gases and Particles.....	317
23.3 Modifying the Distribution Patterns	319
23.4 Ozone Depletion.....	321
23.5 Henry's Law.....	323
23.6 Acidification.....	325
Appendix: The Double Logarithmic Representation.....	327
References	367
Index.....	375