

Preface

It has been our experience that placing the reams of observations, examples, and research within the broad context of invasion ecology gets more difficult as the field grows each year. Not only does relevance change with new insights, but the field itself requires an intense understanding of multiple disciplines. Invasion ecology by its nature is integrative, requiring its practitioners to understand (at the least) economics, evolution, population genetics, biogeography, and ecology. Indeed, those studying biological invasions must not only understand these contributing fields, they must combine them in order to find ways to control the flow and impact of non-native species. This is a tall order. We discovered early in writing this book that we could not cover all aspects and examples of invasions within a single text. Not only are different disciplines integrated into the study of invasions, but different ecologists have distinct motivations behind their research. We ultimately decided to produce an overview of the invasion process from the point of view of an applied ecologist. Thus, we hope to highlight the salient research findings associated with each invasion stage (e.g., transport, establishment, spread, impact), while explicitly considering how these findings support societies' efforts to prevent the influx of non-native species and control those that cause ecological harm. We would also like to humbly apologize to the many excellent invasion ecologists (including some of our friends) whose work we did not include.

This textbook was designed to be used in senior-level courses for undergraduates and in graduate courses. We purposefully take a very broad view of biological invasions with the hope that students and instructors will find the book useful as a primer to the growing field of invasion ecology. We have tried to make the chapters accessible and interesting to read while conveying the history and complexity of current debates, and we offer readings that we think complement each chapter. We have assumed students have at least completed a basic ecology course and can read calculus equations without fainting (or we suggest they assume a seated position while reading Chapters 7 and 8). The boxes associated with each chapter are integral to the material there, thus we strongly recommend that students and instructors do not skip over them. Given our goal of producing a comprehensive textbook, readers will not find appreciable amounts of new material here, instead we hope they will find some insightful organization and interesting juxtapositions.

The final version of this book represents three years worth of steady work on the part of the authors. Honestly, we have thoroughly enjoyed most of it, and the parts that were not so much fun were at least made tolerable by our "working" sessions. These sessions

invariably lasted two days, involved lots of cookies and good wine or bad beer (only occasionally together), and were filled with much joking and laughter. For us, this book was well worth creating for the friendships its production forged and the insight we as authors gained while researching the topics; however, we certainly hope those that actually buy the book will find it worth their money.

If we achieve any success with this text, it will have much to do with the help we have received from our families, partners, colleagues, and friends. In particular we would like to thank those colleagues who provided "friendly" peer review for each chapter. These folks are Kama Almasi, Tim Blackburn, Cini Brown, Phillip Cassey, Jeff Corbin, Curt Daehler, Susan Harrison, David Holway, Ruth Hufbauer, Theo Light, Kelly Lyons, Peter Moyle, Kristina Schierenbeck, Katriona Shea, Dov Sax, Dan Simberloff, and Betsy Von Holle. Our gratitude also goes out to those authors who shared original figures and photos with us including Towns Peterson, Dave Rizzo, and Marcel Holyoak. We owe our respective academic departments our thanks as they not only put up with our distraction but also provided the space we needed to work, laugh, eat cookies, and drink beer, and the reams of paper we needed to construct the final version of the book. We would also like to thank our students who had to put up with our busy schedules and distracted brains. We owe a special thanks to our original editor at Blackwell, Sarah Shannon who initially contacted Julie to propose the book, to our current editors there, Hannah Berry, Rosie Hayden, and Ward Cooper, to John Normansell for typesetting, and to the Blackwell production staff. Finally, we dedicate this book to Tanya, Eve, and Tabby and thank them for their patience, kindness and love. Without you three to support us we would never have made it to the finish line.

Julie Lockwood – New Jersey
Martha Hoopes – Massachusetts
Michael Marchetti – California

