

Preface to the Second Edition

The second edition of *Community Ecology* represents an effort to update information that has been published since the first edition appeared in 1999, as well as to fill in some gaps present in the first edition. As before, the limits of space demand that the book cannot be encyclopedic. The examples used to illustrate key concepts are the ones that I use in my own graduate course in community ecology, and I realize that many other fine examples of important research in these areas could have been used instead, but have necessarily gone uncited by me. For that, I apologize to the many fine ecologists whose work I was unable to include here.

The overall organization of the book remains largely unchanged, while I have made an effort to update the references used in most of the chapters. Some areas of community ecology have advanced importantly since the first edition appeared, and readers will notice those changes are particularly reflected by new content in the chapters on food webs (Chapter 6) and the causes and consequences of diversity (Chapter 12). The second edition also appears at a time when some prominent ecologists have questioned whether ecological communities are in fact real entities whose properties can be understood through studies of local interactions among organisms. Obviously, having written this book, I do not share this concern, and I hope that the book will emphasize the many aspects of community ecology that emerge from interactions among organisms in different environments.

A number of colleagues at other universities who have used the first edition in their teaching have made many helpful comments and suggestions that I have tried to incorporate in the second edition. For that I am grateful to Laurel Fox, Bob Kooi, Robert Marquis, Wilfred Röling, Marcel van der Heijden, and Herman Verhoef. Thanks also go to the students in my graduate course, *Community Dynamics*, who have made comments and suggestions over the years.

Finally, Marsha Morin gets special praise for putting up with me, and running interference for me, while this project took place. As with the first edition, I could not have completed it without her love, help, support, and understanding.

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