



Is it possible to omit parasites when studying free-living organisms? The answer is clearly no! Parasites have evolved independently in numerous animal lineages, and now make up a considerable proportion of the biodiversity of life. Ecologists, epidemiologists, conservationists, and evolutionary biologists are increasingly aware of the universal significance of parasites to the study of ecology and evolution, where they have become a powerful model system. This book provides a summary of the issues involved as well as an overview of the possibilities offered by this research topic including the practical applications

for disease prevention. It uses well-documented case-studies across a range of scales to illustrate the main trends and prospects in this area, outlining areas for future research.

Ecology and Evolution of Parasitism is the first book to provide a broad synthesis of both the roles and consequences of pathogens on aspects of the ecology and evolution of free-living systems (such as sexual selection, behaviour, life history traits, regulation of populations). It focuses on hosts rather than the parasites themselves, and includes examples across a range of scales from individuals to populations, communities, and ecosystems.

This research level text is suitable for graduate level students as well as professional researchers in ecology, parasitology, epidemiology, and evolutionary biology. It will also be of relevance and use to medical researchers and public health professionals.

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