



Biogeography of Microscopic Organisms

Bringing together the viewpoints of leading experts in taxonomy, ecology and biogeography of different taxa, this book synthesises discussion surrounding the so-called 'Everything is everywhere' hypothesis. It addresses the processes that generate spatial patterns of diversity and biogeography in organisms that can potentially be cosmopolitan.

The contributors discuss questions such as: are microorganisms (e.g. prokaryotes, protists, algae, yeast and microscopic fungi, plants and animals) really cosmopolitan in their distribution? What are the biological properties that allow such potential distribution? Are there processes that would limit their distribution? Are microorganisms intrinsically different from macroscopic ones? What can microorganisms tell us about the generalities of biogeography? Can they be used for experimental biogeography?

Written for graduate students and academic researchers, the book promotes a more complete understanding of the spatial patterns and the general processes in biogeography.

DIEGO FONTANETO is a NERC Advanced Research Fellow at the Division of Biology, Imperial College London, Ascot, UK. His research focuses on spatial patterns and processes in microscopic animals, with a particular interest in rotifers.

Cover illustration: light micrograph of a group *Stentor polymorphus*, a widespread freshwater ciliate protist. They have a trumpet-like opening surrounded by a rim of cilia (blue hair-like structures) that beat to draw food inside their gullets. The green colour comes from symbiotic green algae, or zoochlorellae. Magnification: x40 when printed at 10 centimetres wide. Gerd Guenther / Science Photo Library.

