

Essentials of Ecology presents introductory ecology in an accessible, state-of-the-art format designed to cultivate the novice student's understanding of, and fascination with, the natural world. In a concise, engaging style, this text outlines the essential principles of ecology from the theoretical fundamentals to their practical applications. Full color artwork, simple pedagogical features, and a wide range of carefully chosen examples make this book an ideal introduction to ecology for students at all levels.

The third edition of this successful text is much more than a simple update, reflecting the vibrancy of the field. With hundreds of new examples, it contains for the first time a separate chapter on evolutionary ecology, with all other chapters, especially those on applied aspects, having been extensively revised and rewritten. The new edition also features new artwork and an enhanced design, making *Essentials of Ecology* as attractive as it is up-to-date and relevant.

Outstanding features of the third edition of *Essentials of Ecology* include:

- Dedicated website – available at www.blackwellpublishing.com/townsend, featuring study resources and web research questions
- Key concepts – summarized at the beginning of each chapter
- History boxes – outlining key landmarks in the development of ecology
- Quantitative boxes – allowing mathematical aspects of ecology to be explained clearly without interrupting the flow of the text
- Topical ECOncerns boxes – highlighting ethical, social, and political questions in ecology
- Review questions – included at the end of each chapter

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