



Plants and Vegetation: Origins, Processes, Consequences

By Paul Keddy

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Plants make up 99.9 percent of the world's living matter, provide food and shelter, and control the Earth's climate. The study of plant ecology is therefore essential to understanding the biological functions and processes of the biosphere. This vibrant introductory textbook integrates important classical themes with recent ideas, models and data. The book begins with the origin of plants and their role in creating the biosphere as the context for discussing plant functional types and evolutionary patterns. The coverage continues logically through the exploration of causation with chapters, amongst others, on resources, stress, competition, predation, and mutualism. The book concludes with a chapter on conservation, addressing the concern that as many as one-third of all plant species are at risk of extinction. Each chapter is enriched with striking and unusual examples of plants (e.g., stone plants, carnivorous plants) and plant habitats (e.g., isolated tropical tepui, arctic cliffs). Paul Keddy writes in a lively and thought-provoking style which will appeal to students at all levels.

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Plants and Vegetation: Origins, Processes, Consequences By Paul Keddy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2935953 in eBooks
- Published on: 2007-06-07
- Released on: 2007-06-07
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"Overall, this is a surprisingly easy to read, remarkably thorough, and balanced textbook. The author has focused less on exhausting every aspect of plant ecology and more on creating a critical, engaging, multi-disciplinary, and pragmatic approach to some major aspects. The ultimate goal of this book seems to be to instruct and to train plant ecologists, and in this it will be successful."

Sean Hoban, Plant Sciences Bulletin

About the Author

Paul Keddy is the first holder of the Schlieder Endowed Chair for Environmental Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University. His current research explores the environmental factors that control plant communities, and how these factors can be manipulated to maintain and restore biological diversity. Dr Keddy has published more than a hundred scholarly papers on plant ecology, and is designated a Highly Cited Researcher in Ecology and Environment by the Institute for Scientific Information. He is the author of *Wetland Ecology: Principles and Applications* (winner of the Society of Wetland Scientists' Merit Award) and *Competition* (awarded Lawson Medal by Canadian Botanical Association and Gleason Prize by New York Botanical Garden). Dr Keddy also co-edited *The World's Largest Wetlands: Ecology and Conservation* and *Ecological Assembly Rules: Perspectives, Advances, Retreats*.

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