

Contents

<i>Foreword by R Misra</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
1. Introduction	1
Divisions of plant ecology	4
Development of ecology	6
2. The Ecosystem	17
Ecosystem components	21
Gaia hypothesis	25
Trophic relations	26
Productivity concept	35
Systems analysis and ecomodelling	36
Stability controls (homeostasis)	39
Types and examples of ecosystems	42
3. Light and Temperature Factors	43
The light factor	44
The temperature factor	51
4. Water and Hydrological Cycle	60
Atmospheric water and rainfall	62
Soil moisture	66
Hydrophytes	70
Mesophytes	82
Xerophytes	83
Halophytes	94
5. Atmosphere and Gaseous Cycle	98
Carbon	99
Oxygen	102

Nitrogen 104
Wind 109

6. Soil and Sedimentary Cycle

114

Soil components 115
Phosphorus 120
Calcium 122
Sulphur 123
Soil dynamics 130

7. Fire Factor

141

8. Biotic Interrelationships

146

Grazing and scraping 157
Role of animals in pollination and dispersal of
seed and fruit 158

9. Autecology and Population Dynamics

160

Ecological life cycle 160
Ecotypic differentiation 176
Population characteristics and dynamics 180
r and *K* selections 184
R, *C* and *S* selections 186
Species interaction and competition 189
Keystone, flagship and umbrella species 190

10. Syneiology and Community Dynamics

193

Methods and purpose of studying plant communities 197
Qualitative characteristics of communities 197
Raunkiaer's life-forms 199
Quantitative characteristics of communities 203
Kinds of quadrats 204
Plotless or point methods 208
Quantitative structure of plant communities 209
Importance value index (IVI) 216
Ecotone 217
Zonal and gradient approaches of community
organization 218
Habitat and niche 220
Dominance and diversity 221
Community dynamics 225
Ecological succession 226
Kinds of succession 229
Climax 241

11. Biodiversity and Major Biomes of the World	245
Economic importance	249
Causes of biodiversity losses	253
Biodiversity in India	261
Major biomes	263
12. Ecological Energetics	276
13. Production Ecology	288
Turnover	289
Primary production processes	289
Production process in C-4 plants	291
Production process in CAM plants	292
Measurement of primary productivity	295
Productivity in different ecosystems	303
Litter	308
14. Conservation and Management	310
Conservation ecology	311
Agriculture	313
Range management	315
Water and wetland management	325
Soil conservation	330
Conservation of endangered genetic resources	337
15. Environmental Pollution	341
Air pollution	342
Other greenhouse gases	346
Ozone and UV-B problems	352
Water pollution	355
Solid waste pollution	362
Radioactive pollution	363
Noise pollution impacts	367
Soil pollution	369
El Nino and La Nina	371
16. Ecotoxicology, Bioindicators, Biomonitoring and Bioremediation	372
17. Flora and Vegetation of India	376
Botanical regions	377
Vegetation of India	385
Forest vegetation	386
Grassland vegetation	390

18. Phytogeography **393**

Descriptive or static phytogeography	394
Arctic zone	394
The north temperate zone	396
The tropical zone	400
The south temperate zone	404
Interpretive or dynamic phytogeography	404
Basic principles	405
Age and area theory	406
Endemism	407
Centre of origin	408
Plant migration and barriers	410

19. Practicals, Measurements and Conversions **413**

Measurements and conversions	425
<i>Glossary</i>	427
<i>References</i>	437
<i>Index</i>	467