

New Titles

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It would be easy to criticize the book for this but unfair to do so; the author has provided a unique synthesis of an important issue that many ecologists ignore or overlook, and draws on a body of literature from a field that he clearly knows very well. It is then up to those readers working in other fields to consider how the ideas and issues raised in the book might be relevant to their own areas of interest. *Multiplicity in Unity* deserves to be read by a wide cross section of ecologists, and herein lies my only real niggle about the book. It is written in a style that would no doubt appeal to other plant evolutionary and reproductive biologists, but non-specialists who would also benefit from reading it might find parts of the book densely written and heavy going; some paragraphs are more than 1.5 pages long. Further, chapter summaries appear at the ends of some chapters but not others, making it difficult to derive a take-home message from some chapters without giving them a thorough reading.

Although *Multiplicity in Unity* was not written explicitly for the growing number of ecologists who study plant functional traits, this subset of the ecological community would particularly benefit from the information in this book. This field has seen some truly pioneering work in the 1970s and 1980s (e.g., Grime 1979), but in the last few years it has become particularly crowded (as in any field for which a few earlier publications have enjoyed a high profile), and fewer truly major conceptual advances are now emerging. As work in this field has taken almost entirely an across-species focus, one significant way forward would be to explicitly recognize that there can be huge plasticity in functional traits both among and across individuals within the same species, and that this variability may itself have considerable functional significance in driving community and ecosystem processes. As such, *Multiplicity in Unity* should be required reading for anyone involved in studying plant functional traits,

and particularly those who develop and use plant-trait databases. At a broader level, this book would be a most useful bookshelf addition for anyone interested in the study of variability in plant ecology, including those who work on very different systems and questions to those explored by the author.

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NEW TITLES

- Ant Ecology.** Lori Lach, Catherine L. Parr, and Kirsti L. Abbott, eds. Oxford University Press, 2010. 424 pp., illus. \$62.95 (ISBN 9780199592616 paper).
- Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids.** David W. MacDonald and Andrew J. Loveridge, eds. Oxford University Press, 2010. 736 pp., illus. \$75.00 (ISBN 9780199234455 paper).
- Bird Migration and Global Change.** George W. Cox. Island Press, 2010. 304 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9781597266888 paper).
- Cenozoic Mammals of Africa.** Lars Werdelin and William Joseph Sanders, eds. University of California

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Conservation by Proxy: Indicator, Umbrella, Keystone, Flagship, and Other Surrogate Species. Tim Caro. Island Press, 2010. 400 pp., illus. \$35.00 (ISBN 9781597261937 paper).

Essential Ornithology. Graham Scott. Oxford University Press. 208 pp., illus. \$55.00 (ISBN 9780198569978 paper).

The Evolution of Primary Sexual Characters in Animals. Janet L. Leonard and Alex Córdoba-Aguilar, eds. Oxford University Press, 2010. 552 pp., illus. \$79.95 (ISBN 9780195325553 cloth).

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Molecular Approaches in Natural Resource Conservation and Management. J. Andrew DeWoody, John W. Bickham, Charles H. Michler, Krista M. Nichols, Olin E. Rhodes Jr., and Keith E. Woeste, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2010. 400 pp., illus. \$55.00 (ISBN 9780521731348 paper).

Resolving Ecosystem Complexity. Oswald J. Schmitz. Princeton University Press, 2010. 176 pp., illus. \$35.00 (ISBN 9780691128498 paper).

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