ECOLOGY OF WORLD VEGETATION pdf

1: Plant ecology - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! Ecology of World Vegetation. [O W Archibold] -- This striking book provides a handy summary of the ecology of the world's vegetation. The introductory chapters provide a basic back-drop to the subject.

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2: Vegetation Ecology - Google Books

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Competition biology Plants, like most life forms, require relatively few basic elements: There are also lesser elements needed as well, frequently termed micronutrients, such as magnesium and sodium. When plants grow in close proximity, they may deplete supplies of these elements and have a negative impact upon neighbours. Competition for resources vary from complete symmetric all individuals receive the same amount of resources, irrespective of their size to perfectly size symmetric all individuals exploit the same amount of resource per unit biomass to absolutely size-asymmetric the largest individuals exploit all the available resource. The degree of size asymmetry has major effects on the structure and diversity of ecological communities. In many cases perhaps most the negative effects upon neighbours arise from size asymmetric competition for light. In other cases, there may be competition below ground for water, nitrogen, or phosphorus. To detect and measure competition, experiments are necessary; these experiments require removing neighbours, and measuring responses in the remaining plants. Overall, it appears that light is the most important resource for which plants compete, and the increase in plant height over evolutionary time likely reflects selection for taller plants to better intercept light. Many plant communities are therefore organized into hierarchies based upon the relative competitive abilities for light. In principle, it is possible to examine competition at the level of the limiting resources if a detailed knowledge of the physiological processes of the competing plants is available. However, in most terrestrial ecological studies, there is only little information on the uptake and dynamics of the resources that limit the growth of different plant species, and, instead, competition is inferred from observed negative effects of neighbouring plants without knowing precisely which resources the plants were competing for. In certain situations, plants may compete for a single growth-limiting resource, perhaps for light in agricultural systems with sufficient water and nutrients, or in dense stands of marsh vegetation, but in many natural ecosystems plants may be colimited by several resources, e. Mutualism biology Mutualism is defined as an interaction "between two species or individuals that is beneficial to both". Probably the most widespread example in plants is the mutual beneficial relationship between plants and fungi, known as mycorrhizae. The plant is assisted with nutrient uptake, while the fungus receives carbohydrates. Some the earliest known fossil plants even have fossil mycorrhizae on their rhizomes. First, flowers are pollinated by insects. This relationship seems to have its origins in beetles feeding on primitive flowers, eating pollen and also acting unwittingly as pollinators. Second, fruits are eaten by animals, and the animals then disperse the seeds. Thus, the flowering plants actually have three major types of mutualism, since most higher plants also have mycorrhizae. Examples might include "nurse plants" whose shade allows young cacti to establish. Most examples of mutualism, however, are largely beneficial to only one of the partners, and may not really be true mutualism. The term used for these more one-sided relationships, which are mostly beneficial to one participant, is facilitation. Facilitation among neighboring plants may act by reducing the negative impacts of a stressful environment. A familiar example is the ephiphytes which grow on branches of tropical trees, or even mosses which grow on trees in deciduous forests. It is important to keep track of the benefits received by each species to determine the appropriate term. Although people are often fascinated by unusual examples, it is important to remember that in plants, the main mutualisms are mycorrhizae, pollination, and seed dispersal. Herbivory and Plant defense against herbivory Reindeer in front of herbivore exclosures. Excluding different herbivores here reindeer, or reindeer and rodents has different effects on the vegetation. An important ecological function of plants is that they produce organic compounds for herbivores [19] in the bottom of the food web. A large number of plant traits, from thorns to chemical defenses, can be related to the intensity of herbivory. Large herbivores can also have many effects on vegetation. These include removing selected species, creating gaps for regeneration of new individuals, recycling nutrients, and dispersing seeds. Certain ecosystem types, such as grasslands, may be dominated by the effects of large herbivores, although fire is also an equally important factor in this biome. In

few cases, herbivores are capable of nearly removing all the vegetation at a site for example, geese in the Hudson Bay Lowlands of Canada, and nutria in the marshes of Louisiana [20] but normally herbivores have a more selective impact, particularly when large predators control the abundance of herbivores. The usual method of studying the effects of herbivores is to build exclosures, where they cannot feed, and compare the plant communities in the exclosures to those outside over many years. Often such long term experiments show that herbivores have a significant effect upon the species that make up the plant community.

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Book: Ecology of world vegetation. www.enganchecubano.com + pp. ref pp. of Abstract: This book is a comprehensive source of information on vegetation structure and processes in a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems ecosystems Subject Category: Habitats.

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