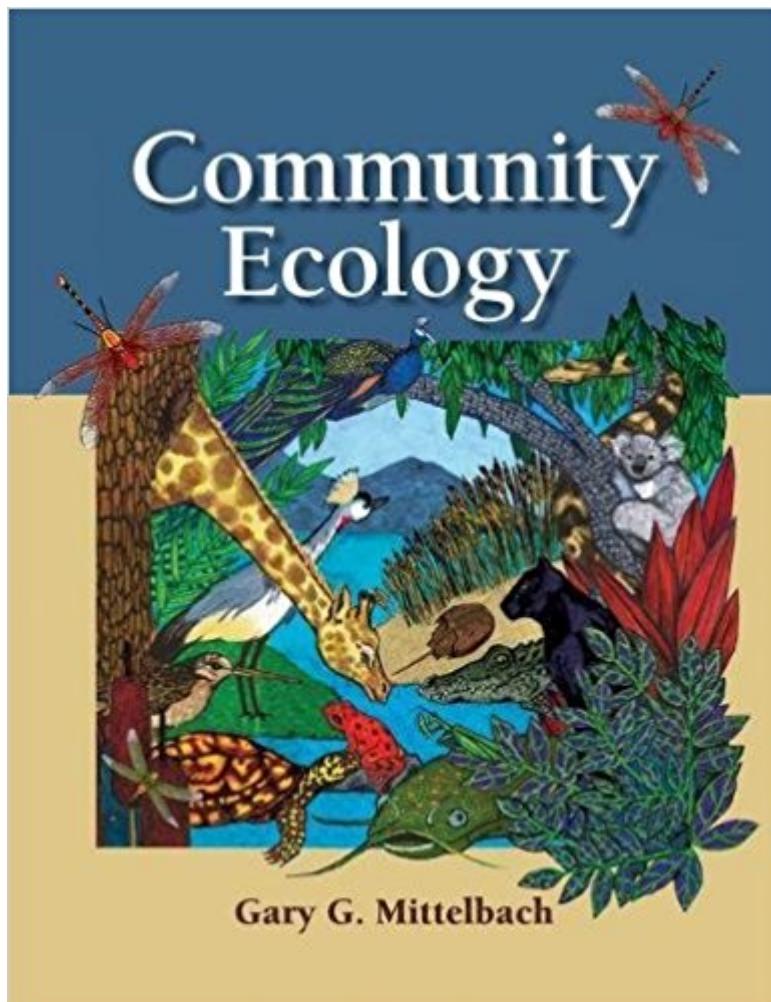


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Community Ecology



Synopsis

Community Ecology is a book for graduate students, researchers, and advanced undergraduates seeking a broad, up-to-date coverage of ecological concepts at the community level. Community ecology has undergone a transformation in recent years, from a discipline largely focused on processes occurring within a local area to a discipline encompassing a much richer domain of study, including the linkages between communities separated in space (metacommunity dynamics), niche and neutral theory, the interplay between ecology and evolution (eco-evolutionary dynamics), and the influence of historical and regional processes in shaping patterns of biodiversity. To fully understand these new developments, however, students need a strong foundation in the study of species interactions and how these interactions are assembled into food webs and other ecological networks. Both "new" and "traditional" aspects of community ecology are covered in the book's five sections: *The Big Picture: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences of Biodiversity *The Nitty-Gritty: Species Interactions in Simple Modules *Putting the Pieces Together: Food Webs and Ecological Networks *Spatial Ecology: Metapopulations and Metacommunities *Species in Changing Environments: Ecology and Evolution Applied aspects of community ecology (e.g., resource harvesting, invasive species, community restoration) are treated throughout the book as natural extensions of basic theoretical and empirical work. Theoretical concepts are developed using simple equations, and there is an emphasis on the graphical presentation of ideas. Each chapter concludes with a summary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Mittelbach covers all the major topics in community ecology from a broad prospective and provides a text that is easily usable for an advanced ecology course. I particularly like the use of the pictures and graphics throughout the text, as they provide the crucial visuals that students need to visualize advanced concepts." -Deanna Soper, University of Dallas

"I particularly like the reflective tone, the engaging voice, the emphasis on the evolution of ideas, and that, when appropriate, the book highlights competing perspectives on as-yet-unresolved issues without attempting to codify them. I found that very helpful in getting students to appreciate that the field is dynamic, exciting, and constantly evolving, and that there is plenty of room left for people like them to make novel and important contributions." --Robert M. Pringle, Princeton University

"This book is a much-needed up-to-date general-purpose text on community ecology. Community ecology went through a near-death experience in the late '80s and then a rebirth in a totally new direction in the '90s. This book is exciting primarily because it promises to be the first that bridges this divide and covers the new material at the same level of emphasis as the old. Author Mittelbach is one of only a handful of people who can claim to be a leading researcher in both the earlier and later paradigms of community ecology. The deep expertise and, more importantly, the sense of having been part of 'it' for both of the 'its' (early and late) exude through the pages of this manuscript. The perspective and excitement this brings set this book apart." --Brian McGill, University of Maine

"The detail and review of the literature to support the concepts is excellent. It is clear that this textbook is driven by the research. I really like that the author makes clear the past and current arguments with regard to the theory. Further, identifying the important questions that are still to be answered is very helpful in getting students to consider that there is still work they can accomplish to contribute to our knowledge." --Stephen Burton, Grand Valley State University

"I appreciate how Mittelbach brings a reasoned and balanced approach to presenting some issues that were once controversial, and emphasizing positive contributions to current understanding. The author takes good advantage of recent theoretical advances and presents a more rigorous synthesis of general patterns and questions." --James P. Grover, University of Texas at Arlington

"This is an important book which fills an empty niche as a community ecology textbook that covers much of the recent literature at a fairly high level. Gary Mittelbach is one of the most influential ecologists in the US, and he has played a particularly important role in using meta-analyses to help understand large-scale patterns. As a whole, I think it is an excellent work that will introduce state-of-the-art community ecology to large numbers of students." --Peter A. Abrams, University of Toronto

"The author does an excellent job of distilling the information and making it all clear and easy to follow, without losing the fun complexity

of the topic." --Dov F. Sax, Brown University "I really like the ordering of topics from the Table of Contents, which follows my own thinking about a logical sequence to teach community ecology."
--Nancy E. McIntyre, Texas Tech University

Gary G. Mittelbach is Professor at the Kellogg Biological Station and the Department of Integrative Biology at Michigan State University. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Iowa (1974) and earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University (1980) working under Dr. Earl Werner. Dr. Mittelbach is recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher by ISI® and is a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America. His research interests include community ecology, biogeography, aquatic ecology, biodiversity, and species interactions.

This semester, I took a Population/Community Ecology class, and this was the book recommended by our professor. Community Ecology in general covers a LOT of ground, so I didn't expect the book to have more than a chapter or two on any one area, but the book does manage to give a surprisingly solid overview of com. eco. as a whole and goes rather in-depth on all the important concepts. Popular population interaction models are explained then thoroughly picked apart, theories and hypotheses are equally presented and attacked, and the overall usefulness and real-world-application of community ecology research and modeling is heavily stressed and explained. Examples are cited clearly, and the explanations the author gives are clear and easy to understand without being vague or feeling brushed-over. This book surprised me in its depth and even after completing the class, I retained much more than I expected to, and I must admit it was a very interesting and (dare I say?) fun read. This is definitely a book I'm keeping for my personal archives. Overall, this is a wonderful resource for anyone who is studying ecology as a whole, but especially for people in the environmental field who will be involved in conservation, sustainable harvesting, or any other job where populations have to be monitored or managed. Don't let the childish-looking cover fool you! This book means business, and will help you GREATLY in understanding and preserving natural systems.

I needed this book for a college class. I really enjoyed reading it, and I made a A in the class. I returned it through the textbook program to recoup some of my money but it's worth keeping if this is your area of expertise.

This is a great textbook. I'm reviewing it while studying for my PhD qualifying exams and it is very

easy to read and very interesting.

easily read, a good book for Asia students and have clear figure and the word of book is an orderliness

I use this text in a student-led graduate seminar. In the Preface, the author notes that when writing a community ecology text, it is a challenge to determine what to leave in, and what to leave out. This single observation sets the stage for this textbook. For the material "left in" the selected topics are covered quite well. Pairwise interactions, metapopulations, metacommunities, and food webs are all well-covered. The author traces the development of ideas, from the "classic papers" to current thinking. The material "left out" will be frustrating but idiosyncratic for any community ecologist. I would have liked to seen more treatment of assembly rules and community phylogenetics. Topics that associated with plant community ecology, such as direct and indirect gradient analysis, are left out. Likewise, current thinking in microbial community ecology is not explored. I am happy with the text and will use it again. However, the coverage is necessarily quirky. Since this is community ecology, quirky is okay.

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