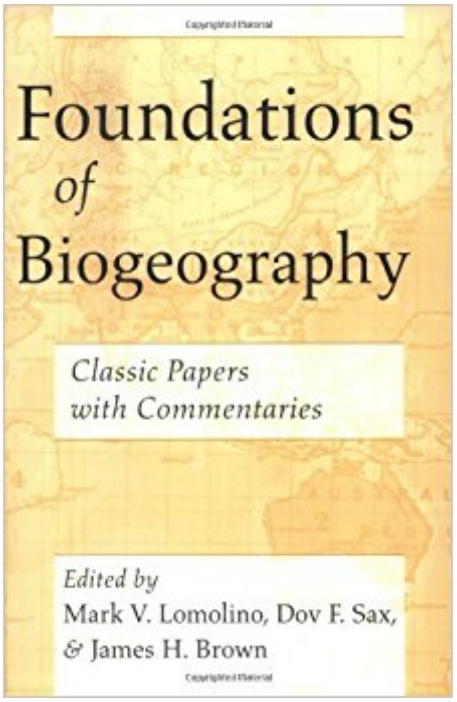
Foundations Of Biogeography: Classic Papers With Commentaries



Synopsis

Foundations of Biogeography provides facsimile reprints of seventy-two works that have proven fundamental to the development of the field. From classics by Georges-Louis LeClerc Compte de Buffon, Alexander von Humboldt, and Charles Darwin to equally seminal contributions by Ernst Mayr, Robert MacArthur, and E. O. Wilson, these papers and book excerpts not only reveal biogeography’s historical roots but also trace its theoretical and empirical development. Selected and introduced by leading biogeographers, the articles cover a wide variety of taxonomic groups, habitat types, and geographic regions. Foundations of Biogeography will be an ideal introduction to the field for beginning students and an essential reference for established scholars of biogeography, ecology, and evolution.List of ContributorsJohn C. Briggs, James H. Brown, Vicki A. Funk, Paul S. Giller, Nicholas J. Gotelli, Lawrence R. Heaney, Robert Hengeveld, Christopher J. Humphries, Mark V. Lomolino, Alan A. Myers, Brett R. Riddle, Dov F. Sax, Geerat J. Vermeij, Robert J. Whittaker

Book Information

Paperback: 1328 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (July 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226492370

ISBN-13: 978-0226492377

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 2.6 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #354,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #285 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology #1018 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography #1074 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Ecology

Customer Reviews

"This is not only a truly voluminous book . . . it is also very interesting and supplies stimulating reading of papers of various styles and approaches." (P. Langer Mammalian Biology)"If your class reading list calls for something on Linnaeus, Buffon, de Candolle, von Humboldt and Hooker at one end of the time span, along with MacArthur and Wilson’s theory and developments in the 1970s, this 2-kg set will be very useful." (Mark Williamson Nature)"It is not possible to do justice here to the dozens and dozens of great studies reprinted in this book--after all, virtually every paper is considered a classic in its own rignt--but perhaps it suffices to say that it should not come as any

surprise when Foundations of Biogeography itself becomes a major milestone in modern biogeography." (Carole T. Gee Plant Systematics and Evolution)â œCompendia of this type can be judged by two criteria: how effectively the specific selections convey the complex history of the field, and how well the accompanying commentaries orient the reader to provide a realistic sense of the scienceâ ™s development. . . . The book measures up well to these standards.Â The selection includes warty works as well as bright jewels, and most of the commentaries provide a good accounting of the twists and turns as concepts and research avenues developed toward the present. . . . Another standard for judging a compilation is how many surprises we encounter.Â Again, the volume stands up well.â • (Stephen T. Jackson Ecology)"[The Foundations] are all extremely useful for teaching, and the present volume is no exception, providing a generous basis for an advanced course or graduate seminar. . . . The volume is a major accomplishment. Praise is due to the publisher, volume editors, and section editors for providing a compendious resource for students and scholars in the history of evolution, ecology, and biogeography." (Jane R. Camerini Journal of the History of Biology)"The purpose of the Foundations series is to bring together and reprint classic papers from a field in one place and create a volume for students of the field to use as a reference. In this aim, the Foundations of Biogepgraphy succeeds admirably. . . . [The] book should make a worthy addition to the library of a biogreographer at any stage. . . .This book would make an excellent text for use in an introduction to biogeography seminar or in a history of biogeography course." (S. Kathleen Lyons Journal of Mammal Evolution) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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I am using this for a graduate class in the history of biogeography and the range of readings is great. Too often nowadays the history and development of a field seems to be limited to what ends up on a Google search, with occasional nods to Darwin. This book sets the stage for the evolution of ideas over time. One can see how ideas about evolution and diversity were incubated by others before Darwin and also the enormous amount that was known about distant floras and faunas in the 18th Century and how different scientists tried to fit the pieces together. It is however a very heavy book and not something to lug around to read when you have a chance. It would be great if the publishers could come up with a Kindle edition.

This collection is a worthy companion to Chicago Univ. Press' earlier FOUNDATIONS OF ECOLOGY. Spanning the period (literally) of Linnaeus to MacArthur BIOGEOGRAPHY presents a wealth of key sources (many now hard to find)which, when coupled with the Commetaries can form the core of a solid course on Biogeography. While some folks may complain that the collection stops too soon (early 1970's) I think the editors have been wise to really restrict themsleves to classics with real staying power, rather than run the risk of being more "contemporary" by including things that may be little more than 9 days' wonders. I would STRONGLY reccomend this book for any grad student or professor interested in ecology, biogeography, or evolution. I doubt my copy will spend much time on the shelf!

Biogeography is a vast subject and in the introduction of this mammoth volume of almost 1300 pages it is argued that it should be treated as a separate major discipline within the framework of life sciences. Foundations charts the history of biogeography from Linnaen roots in the 18th century to the mid 1980s by collecting together and reproducing in whole or in part classic papers, articles and book chapters that represent innovation, refinement and expansion in the horizons of this subject. The selection overall represents the corpus of material upon which modern biogeographic studies flourish. The burden of choice in the selections used has rested on the shoulders of the editors and a small army of recognisable experts individually appointed to take care of each of the seven parts of the work dealing with separate themes in a roughly chronological framework. Each part begins with an introductory section which relates the items selected to the theme under consideration - representing both a commentary and a corrective to the "historical" material to follow.To a large extent biogeography is a linkage of evolutionary and speciation studies to Earth history and geography in the contexts like climates, barriers and habitats. From key innovators there is a roll call of some of the best known workers encompassing geology, zoology botany and palaeontology.In

1858 the ornithologist P. L. Sclater defined the zoogeographic realms still largely accepted to this date. Darwin, Wallace and J. D. Hooker amongst a coterie of sadly lesser known botanists argued out and complimented each others ideas of evolution in relation to geography. The identification of the ice ages and subsequently plate tectonics via A. Wegener and the synthesis of resulting thought probably represents the historical highlight of Foundations. The role call continues with G. G. Simpson, W. Hennig, L. Croizat, E. Mayr, D. Lack, E. O. Wilson and J. M. Diamond representing just a selection of the authors signposting a radiation of ideas.Foundations is very much a multidisciplinary spread and not just a historical progression. Important concepts are highlighted and explored within further themes such as Vicariance and Dispersal, Diversification, Islands, Assembly rules and Gradients asking why there are so many species in the tropics.The work is no primer and would take quite a lot of study unless an eclectic approach is taken to start with. It contains some of the most important papers in the field ever written - eminently quotable and often inaccessible and complex mathematical theory in parts. There could be some argument about the selection and potential biases. Overall the format represents a highly collectible reference of scriptural proportions to naturalists and historians alike and the work will enhance future research. As broached in the introduction the format is repeatable making this an important edition of a larger historical enterprise.

This is a comprehensive collection of papers cleverly compiled by the editor. A very interesting aspect is that it covers a wide range of topics within biogeography along with an equally wide range of study organisms. Articles from several decades of research are available in one book which enables readers to see how the field has evolved over time. It is an excellent supplement to Brown and Lomolino’s or Glen McDonald’s Biogeography textbooks. I would consider adding it as a required book for a class in Biogegraphy.

This series of papers provides an in depth background to the field of Biogeography. Many of the papers reprinted here are difficult to obtain else where.Excellent, like like the rest of the "Foundations of..." series.

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