REVIEW

R. HENGEVELD: Dynamic Biogeography. Cambridge Studies in Ecology. Cambridge University Press, 1990, xiv + 249 pp., illus. Hardcover. Price £ 30.00 (US$ 54.50). ISBN 0-521-38058-8.

'Dynamic Biogeography' is an attempt to give biogeography its own place between other biological disciplines. Hengeveld defines dynamic biogeography as an analysis and understanding of spatial biological phenomena in terms of past and present factors and processes. Species ranges are dynamic structures varying with changing environmental conditions.

The book is arranged from broad scale to fine scale patterns and processes, from classifications to detailed models of species ranges. Although this book is written from an ecological point of view, the author stresses the idea that biogeography should not be restricted to e.g. ecological or historical processes. For the herbarium systematist it will be often impossible to work with the large data collections necessary for statistical descriptions, however.

The book is divided into four parts:

Part I Patterns of concordance, in which e.g. biogeographical classifications, procedures like similarity coefficients and cluster techniques and methodology are discussed.

Part II Geographical trends in species richness and biological traits.

Part III Areography: the analysis of species ranges. Here statistical analysis is necessary.

Part IV Species ranges and patterns of concordance. Here the author tries to explain the large scale patterns (part I) with the processes described in part II.

The book also contains a chapter in which the author expresses his hope that in future biogeographers and ecologists will accept the idea that they are working on the same subject.

Each of the three first parts has a summary and is followed by a conclusion. This, together with many illustrating examples, make a theoretical book like the present one interesting to read.

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