

REVIEW

C. BARRY COX & PETER D. MOORE: **Biogeography: An Ecological and Evolutionary Approach**. 7th edition. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, UK, 2005. xi + 428 pp., illus. ISBN 1-40511-898-9. Price: GBP 32.95.

The latest edition of *Biogeography* is an excellent overview of the history of biogeography and related sciences, and how this has culminated in the latest advances in biogeography. *Biogeography* is concerned with patterns of distribution of groups of organisms. At the basis of these patterns lie topics in ecology such as patterns of biodiversity, species distributions, communities and ecosystems. These patterns are, amongst others, 'shaped' by different processes of speciation, and natural selection. These topics are dealt with in the first part of the book. The chapters on historical biogeography treat the underlying processes of plate tectonics, changes in historical world climate, and how this is reflected in today's life on the different continents. This includes palaeobotany, but also the impact of human evolution on global transformation. New in this edition is the chapter on marine biogeography. The marine biome has less clear boundaries between the interconnected major oceans, and is characterized by its three-dimensional aspect. Advances in the field of phylogenetics and the development of the molecular clock have enabled biogeographers to relate the current species distributional patterns more reliable to the earth's plate tectonics and to historical dispersal. The book finishes with a chapter on how understanding in biogeography can predict the future under different scenarios of global change. The broad range of topics, well illustrated by numerous examples, key concept boxes, and chapter summaries makes the new edition of *Biogeography* recommendable for everybody interested in this field of research.

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