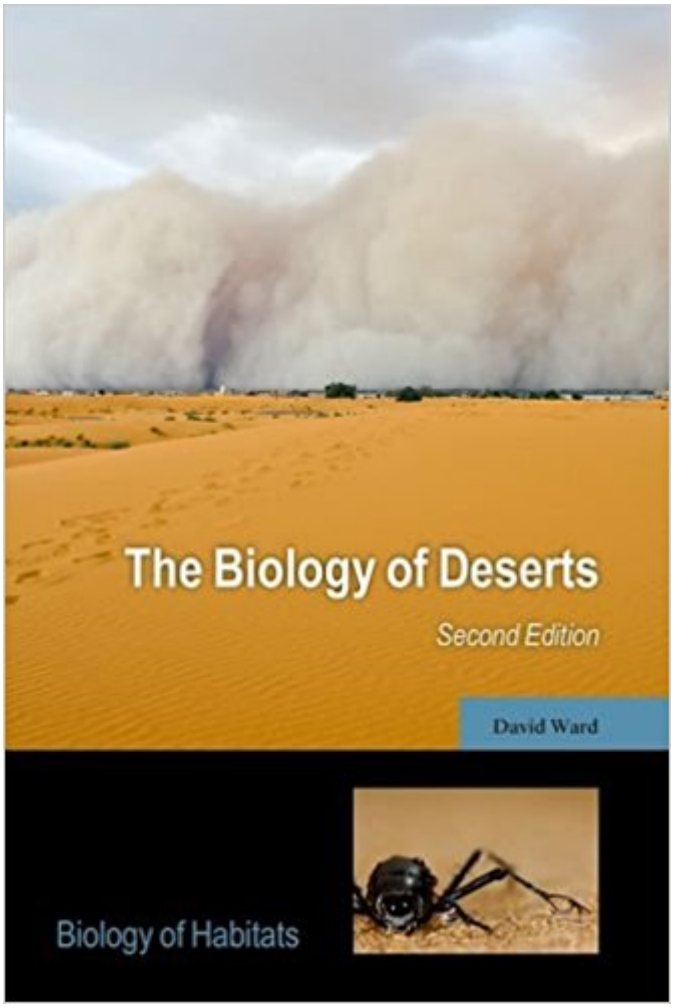
The Biology Of Deserts (Biology Of Habitats Series)



Synopsis

This book offers a concise but comprehensive introduction to desert ecology and adopts a strong evolutionary focus. As with other titles in the Biology of Habitats Series, the emphasis in the book is on the organisms that dominate this harsh environment, although theoretical and experimental aspects are also discussed. In this updated second edition, there is a greater focus on the effects of climate change and some of its likely effects on deserts, seeing desertification as among the most serious results of climate change, leading ultimately to the increasing size of arid and semi-arid regions. The Biology of Deserts Second Edition includes a wide range of ecological and evolutionary issues including morphological and physiological adaptations of desert plants and animals, species interactions, the importance of predation and parasitism, food webs, biodiversity, and conservation. It features a balance of plant and animal (both invertebrate and vertebrate) examples, and also emphasizes topical applied issues such as desertification and invasive species. The book concludes by considering the positive aspects of desert conservation.This accessible textbook is intended for senior undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professional ecologists, conservation practitioners, and resource managers working in the field of desert ecology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wards book is a highly readable introduction to the many facets of desert biology and is rich in fascinating details. Theory and examples are nicely interwoven and supplemented by numerous

figures and illustrations ... a must read for any biologist curious about desert ecosystems * Yael Lubin, Conservation Biology *

David Ward, Art & Margaret Herrick Endowed Professor of Plant Biology, Biological Sciences, Kent State UniversityDavid Ward is Art and Margaret Herrick Endowed Professor of Plant Biology at Kent State University. His research interests lie in the field of the ecology of plant species redistributions. This includes studying both invasive and encroaching plant species. He is also interested in studying the natural process of succession. Most of his research involves trees but he also studies the effects of herbivory by large mammals (such as elephants) on the population biology, community ecology and conservation of plant populations. He believes in the value of field experiments to allow us to gain a mechanistic understanding of the factors that create large-scale vegetation patterns.

I read this textbook as a primer for my comprehensive exams. I study a specific group of desert organisms and wanted to gain a better understanding of deserts as a whole. While I found some parts of the book more informative than others, I’m glad that I read it.First off, the writing in the book is very good. There were certainly some parts that I struggled to get through (it is a textbook, after all) but most of the time I was able to read through large sections without counting down the pages left in the chapter.Personally, I thought the beginning of the book was the best, it fell off a bit in the middle, and then ended strong. I found the initial chapters that defined deserts to be extremely informative. I learned a lot in a very short time and breezed through the first few chapters. However, I was less impressed by the middle chapters. They tended to read like an intro ecology textbook that merely used desert organism in the examples and case studies. This was definitely the area where I found myself struggling to get through at times. Starting at chapter 8, the book picked up for me again and while some sections still read like an intro ecology text, I learned a lot and found the different case studies much more interesting.The book assumes some prior knowledge of ecology and if you don’t have any previous experience with ecology, then anything after the first few chapters will be difficult to absorb. Overall I’m glad I picked up this textbook and I feel like I know a lot more about deserts than I did previously.

I have owned many knives over the years, but this is the first real" bread product that I have ever owned. I really like the construction and design. It works exactly as advertised. I have used it on bread and tomatoes and it did the job perfectly well. I would recommend this product to anyone who

needs a quality bread product." good. as the price. great, and very happy. send to my son,

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