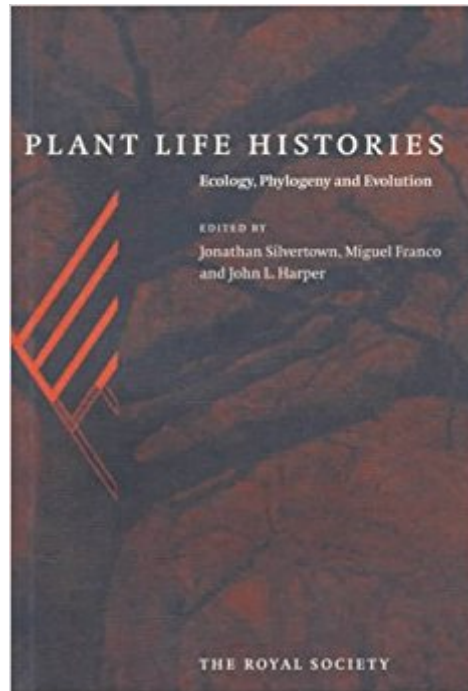




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Plant Life Histories: Ecology, Phylogeny And Evolution



Synopsis

This book reexamines patterns of relationship among plant life history traits in phylogenetic perspective. The reexamination first recognizes that because evolution is a branching process, traits are not randomly distributed across taxa and that therefore analysis of trait correlations cannot treat species as independent data points. It then discusses the use of phylogeny to reconstruct the evolutionary pathways of traits. Part 1 looks at the use of the phylogenetic perspective on trait correlation. Parts 2-4 examine traits from the reproductive phase from seed production and dispersal to recruitment and growth. The final section looks at interactions between plants and competitors, herbivores and microbial symbionts, recognizing that these interactions may have an ancient evolutionary history.

Book Information

Paperback: 331 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 1 edition (October 13, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521574951

ISBN-13: 978-0521574952

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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"...interesting and informative... represents a good overview of current research on plant life history traits and will be appreciated by plant ecologists." Bryan Ness, Plant Science Bulletin "...worth recommending...the chapters are well written, engaging, and appropriate for an audience wider than just the intended readership of applied professionals...important reading for anyone interested in metapopulations or in wildlife conservation...represents a significant contribution to thinking about spatially divided populations." Samuel Keith Riffell, Ecology "...for researchers in the fields of plant population genetics and evolutionary ecology, this volume provides an important synthesis of thinking on a multi-faceted problem being addressed by scientists with a wide range of

backgrounds, perspectives, and techniques." The Canadian Field-Naturalist"Combining chapters on the latest thinking with excellent overviews of background material, this well-edited text provides a fine introduction to the evolution of strategies by plants." New Scientist

Plant Life Histories examines the phylogenetic relationship between plant life history traits. Part 1 looks at the use of the phylogenetic perspective on trait correlation. Parts 2-4 examines traits from the reproductive phase from seed production and dispersal to recruitment and growth. The final section looks at interactions between plants and competitors, herbivores and microbial symbionts, recognising that these interactions may have an ancient evolutionary history. Students and researchers of evolution, ecology and botany will find much of value here.

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