

ix Preface to the First Edition

xi Preface to the Third Edition

Chapter 1

1 Patterns of Life

1, What is biogeography? 3, Habitats and microhabitats. 4, Limits of distribution. 5, Overcoming the barriers. 7, The cosmopolitan plantain. 9, Patterns of dragonflies. 12, Cycads—evolutionary relicts. 15, Climatic relicts. 19, Endemic organisms. 21, Microhabitat. 25, Distribution and food. 27, Soils and plants. 29, Influence of man. 29, References.

Chapter 2

31 The Physical Limitations of Life

31, Environmental gradients. 37, Interaction of factors. 40, Patterns of climate. 43, Daylength and latitude. 45, Climatic zones. 46, Biomes and life-forms. 60, Soil. 64, References.

Chapter 3

66 Making a living

66, Energy, matter and the ecosystem. 68, Nutrients in the ecosystem. 70, Primary production. 72, Efficiency and the number of trophic levels. 75, Food and distribution. 78, Competition. 82, Case history of an ecosystem. 82, Reducing competition. 86, Changing chaffinches. 86, Predators and prey. 88, The niche. 91, Ecological succession. 93, Gradients of diversity. 96, Equivalent species. 97, References.

Chapter 4

99 The Source of Novelty

100, Natural selection. 104, The isolating force within the organism. 106, External isolating forces. 108, Barriers to interbreeding. 110, Polyploids. 110, Summary. 111, Centres of dispersal. 111, Age and area. 111, Adaptations for survival. 113, Meeting the challenge of the environment. 114, Clines and 'rules'. 115, Competition for life. 116, References.

Chapter 5

117 Life (and Death) on Islands

117, Problems of access. 120, Variety of island habitats. 120, Problems of isolation. 123, Hazards of island life. 125, The theory of island biogeography. 127, Evidence for biotic equilibrium. 129, Impermanent

islands. 129, Opportunities for adaptive radiation. 132, The Hawaiian Islands. 139, References.

Chapter 6

141 The Distant Past

144, Gondwanaland and Laurasia. 145, The idea of continental drift. 145, A geological controversy. 146, The evidence of palaeomagnetism. 146, Sea-floor spreading. 149, Plate tectonics. 149, Changing patterns of continents. 152, Effect on climate. 153, Early land life in the moving continents. 156, One world—for a while. 158, References.

Chapter 7

160 The Shaping of Today

161, Historical biogeography and dispersal. 162, The patterns today. 163, The mammals supplant the reptiles. 165, Australia. 165, South America. 166, Old World tropics—the Oriental and African regions. 167, Holarctic region—North America and Eurasia. 169, Mammals—the final patterns. 172, The distribution of flowering plants today. 174, The rise of the flowering plants. 174, Early Northern Hemisphere angiosperm floras. 175, Early Southern Hemisphere angiosperm floras. 176, Middle and Late Cenozoic floral changes. 182, References.

Chapter 8

184 Ice and Change

185, Glacials and interglacials. 188, The record in ocean sediments. 190, Biological changes in the Pleistocene. 196, Interstadials. 200, The present interglacial. 202, Time of warmth. 203, Climatic deterioration. 203, Recorded history. 206, Causes of glaciation. 207, References.

Chapter 9

209 The Mark of Man

209, Man's adaptations. 209, The ecological niche of early man. 210, Pleistocene extinctions—man or climate? 213, The neolithic cultural revolution. 217, The ecological niche of agricultural man. 218, Agriculture and the environment. 220, Man and other organisms. 230, References.

231 Index