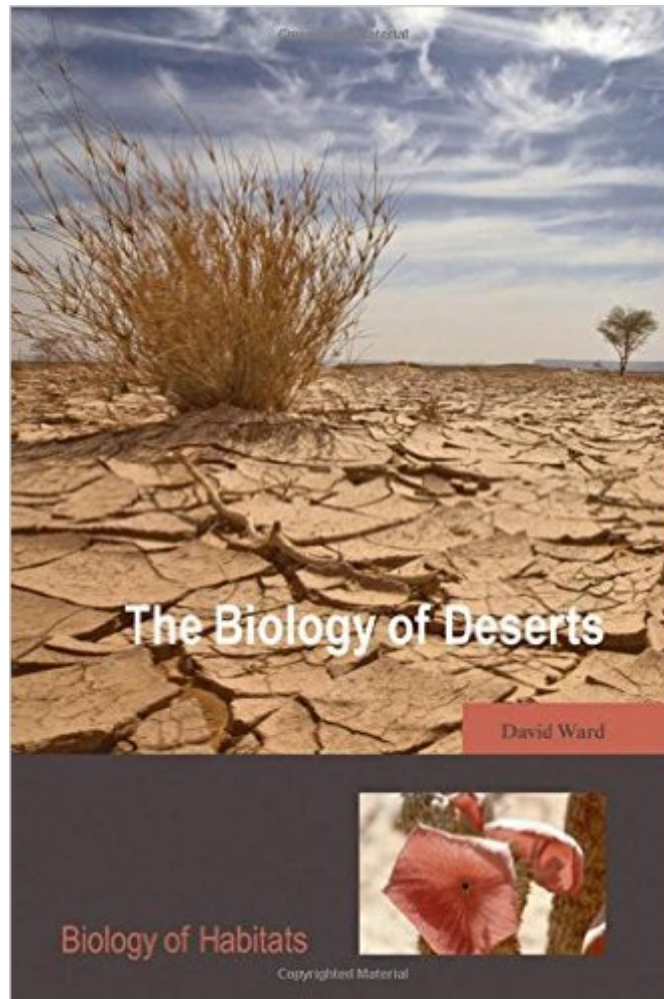


The book was found

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 as well as conservation and desertification are also considered. Deserts are defined by their arid conditions; a consequence of this aridity is that most of the area occupied by desert is barren and monotonous, leading many people to regard it as wasteland. However, deserts are widespread and represent surprisingly biodiverse environments, although it is the relative simplicity of these ecosystems that makes them more tractable for study than more complex environments. In these resource-poor locations, natural selection is working at its most extreme and provides some of the best-known examples of Darwinian selection. The Biology of Deserts 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. Each of the books in the Oxford Biology of Habitats Series introduces a different habitat, and gives an integrated overview of the design, physiology, ecology, and behaviour of the organisms found there. The practical aspects of working within each habitat, the sorts of studies that are possible, and habitat biodiversity and conservation status are all explored.

Book Information

Series: Biology of Habitats Series

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (January 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199211477

ISBN-13: 978-0199211470

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.6 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #676,834 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Deserts](#) #520 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics](#)

> Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology #1954 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Ecology

Customer Reviews

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.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Biology of Deserts (Biology of Habitats Series) Why Oh Why Are Deserts Dry?: All About Deserts (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) Easy Make & Learn Projects: Animal Habitats: Reproducible Mini-Books and 3-D Manipulatives That Teach About Oceans, Rain Forests, Polar Regions, and 12 Other Important Habitats The Biology of Coral Reefs (Biology of Habitats Series) The Biology of Freshwater Wetlands (Biology of Habitats) Cold-Water Corals: The Biology and Geology of Deep-Sea Coral Habitats Tea Party Cookbook: Recipes for Tea Sandwiches Breads Cakes and Deserts Contains Warm Stories from the Heart about Tea Times of the Past Heaven on Earth: A Journey Through Shari'a Law from the Deserts of Ancient Arabia to the Streets of the Modern Muslim World Drylands: The Deserts of North America The California Deserts: An Ecological Rediscovery Life Strategies of Succulents in Deserts: With Special Reference to the Namib Desert (Cambridge Studies in Ecology) Deserts: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) The North American Deserts America's Deserts: Guide to Plants and Animals

(America's Ecosystems) The Deserts of the Southwest: A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide (Sierra Club Naturalist's Guides) Medicinal Plants of the Desert and Canyon West: A Guide to Identifying, Preparing, and Using Traditional Medicinal Plants Found in the Deserts and Canyons of the West and Southwest Animal Habitats! (Williamson Little Hands Series) (Williamson Little Hands Book) Pacific Northwest Beachcomber: A Waterproof Pocket Guide to Beach Habitats, Plants & Animals from Oregon to British Columbia (Duraguide Series) Lakes (Water Habitats) Ocean Tidepool (Habitats)

[Dmca](#)