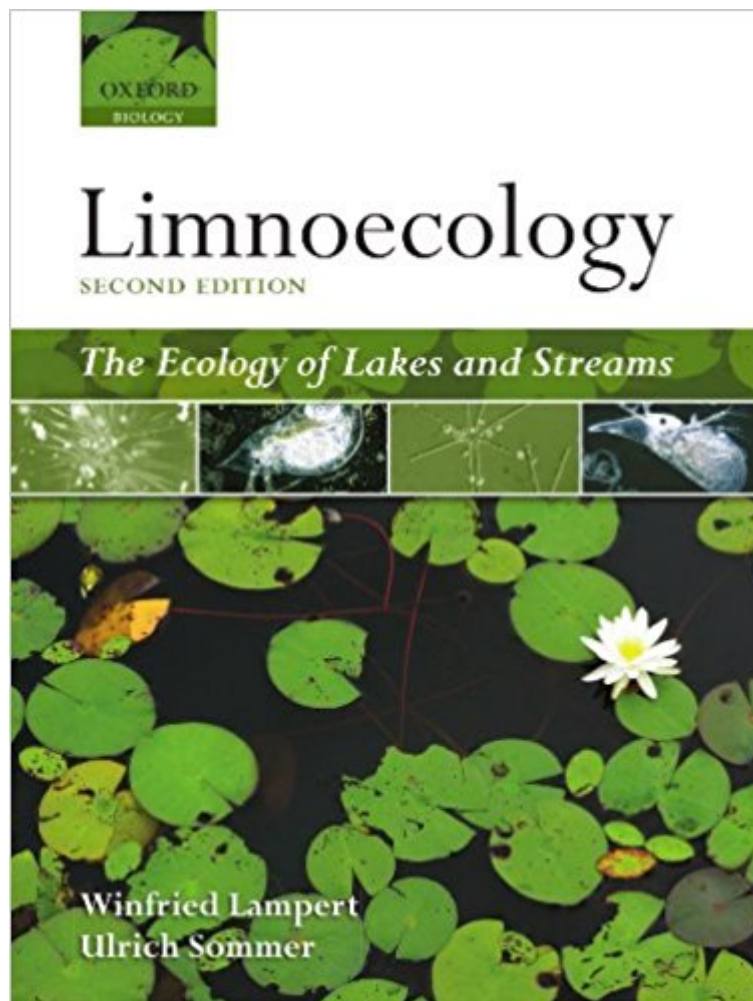


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Limnoecology: The Ecology Of Lakes And Streams



Synopsis

This concise, readable introduction to limnology (the science of investigating the structure and function of inland waters), places the subject in the context of modern ecology. Unlike most ecological textbooks, which use examples taken almost exclusively from terrestrial systems, this book integrates the fields of limnology and ecology by presenting empirical data drawn entirely from freshwater ecosystems in order to advance ecological theories (limnoecology). This second edition builds upon the strengths of the first with the structure of the book following the same hierarchical concept of ecology, from habitat properties, individuals, populations, coupled populations and communities to ecosystems. However, it has been thoroughly revised throughout to incorporate findings from new technologies and methods (notably the rapid development of molecular genetic methods and stable isotope techniques) that have allowed a rapid and ongoing development of the field. There is a new emphasis on food webs, species diversity and ecosystem functioning, climate change, and conservation management. Key ecological questions are examined in the light of the latest experimental evidence. Throughout the text evolutionary theory is applied to an understanding of freshwater ecosystems, thereby filling a niche between traditional limnology and evolutionary ecology. This accessible text is suitable for both undergraduate and graduate students taking courses in limnology, freshwater ecology, and aquatic biology as well as the many professional limnologists, ecologists and conservation biologists requiring a concise but authoritative overview of the topic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This second edition has been updated with new examples, with well-integrated sections that reflect recent advances using stable isotopes, ecological stoichiometry, and molecular genetics, and with coverage of important topics that have emerged since the first edition (e.g., effects of climate change). This is an excellent introduction to what is arguably Earth's most valuable resource." --
The Quarterly Review of Biology, Vol. 83

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a professor I really love the second edition of Limnoecology as a background text as I prepare classes for my ecology and diversity course. At first I was a little put off by the dense content so I bought Ecology of Freshwaters by Moss too. As time went on I really warmed up to the Lampert and Sommer text. The first edition was published in German, then translated to English, which accounts for some of the occasionally formal phrasing. What has made me reach for this book more than any other in aquatic ecology is the depth of research reported, bringing to light examples I never would have become familiar with otherwise. I found the writers very careful in what they write. I can tell they teach or write for real students and real applications because I found it easy to follow their logic and appreciate the careful detail regarding applications and a story to tell with each one. I also really love their figures and have used more than I can count in class. Finally, I really love the problems at the end of each chapter. I wish there were an answer key, but I've found them workable as a professor and my students have liked the ones I gave to them. Overall, I have found this book refreshingly creative, readable, trustworthy, with features, illustrations, and enlightening examples I haven't found anywhere else. It's hard to find such complete coverage of ecology from a freshwater perspective. Oh, and I never used "limnoecology" before I read this book. The students and I now like this term, find it useful, and use it often.

Unlike the previous reviewer, I found this text contained many typos, inconsistent use of terminology, frequent poor explanations for mathematical concepts and figures, lack of examples for many mathematical concepts, and occasionally cluttered content. Yet, they expect you to be able to use the material presented to solve problems. For example, problem 4.7 expects you to build and extrapolate from a P-I curve, yet they do not describe how to build a detailed P-I curve, except to say that photosynthetic rates increase linearly with light until a "certain point" (box 4.1 and section

4.3.5), they use undefined terms like "saturation coefficient" in the problem, and do not provide photosynthetic rates associated with the light values they give, so the student would have to make up values to extrapolate off a light extinction curve. They then ask students to find the "the depth range of optimum photosynthesis", which sounds like a well defined or mathematical concept, but is also undefined in the text. Perhaps they simply want the student to say that the optimum depth range is "around" the depth where the highest rate of photosynthesis takes place, but if so, they should have just asked for the latter term. The summation of these editing and content errors have made the book's content less accessible, frustrating, and could occasionally lead students to false conclusions. If you are looking for an introduction to aquatic ecology, use "Stream Ecology: Structure and function of running waters" by Allan and Castillo instead.

The best thing I found about this book was the explanation of basic concepts of aquatic parameters and behaviors. After reading this book I found myself having hold on the topic and many other related topics. I would highly recommend this book to Environmental Engineering/Science students and specially whose focus of research is limnoecology. One interesting thing, that this is the only book with the title "Limnoecology". I congratulate lampert and Sommer for their great work.

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