



Approaches to Plant Evolutionary Ecology

By G.P. Cheplick

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Plant evolutionary ecology is a rapidly growing discipline which emphasizes that populations adapt and evolve not in isolation, but in relation to other species and abiotic environmental features such as climate. Although it departs from traditional evolutionary and ecological fields of study, the field is connected to branches of ecology, genetics, botany, conservation, and to a number of other fields of applied science, primarily through shared concepts and techniques. However, most books regarding evolutionary ecology focus on animals, creating a substantial need for scholarly literature with an emphasis on plants.

Approaches to Plant Evolutionary Ecology is the first book to specifically explore the evolutionary characteristics of plants, filling the aforementioned gap in the literature on evolutionary ecology. Renowned plant ecologist Gregory P. Cheplick summarizes and synthesizes much of the primary literature regarding evolutionary ecology, providing a historical context for the study of plant populations from an evolutionary perspective. The book also provides summaries of both traditional (common gardens, reciprocal transplants) and modern (molecular genetic) approaches used to address questions about plant adaptation to a diverse group of abiotic and biotic factors. Cheplick provides a rigorously-written introduction to the rapidly growing field of plant evolutionary ecology that will appeal to undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in ecology and evolution, as well as educators who are teaching courses on related topics.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Approaches to Plant Evolutionary Ecology*, by Gregory Cheplick, provides a comprehensive overview of the toolkit for adaptation studies and in doing so effectively passes the torch of the discipline onto the next generation. One of the greatest strengths of the book is that it is written by a single author and follows a clear narrative logic, with the process of evolutionary adaptations being a unifying theme throughout. This makes it a perfect book for use in the classroom." --*RHODORA*

"[T]his volume is a solid resource on plant evolutionary biology for professionals, graduate, and undergraduate students. ... [T]his volume is a solid addition to the library of any person or institution interested in plant research and plant evolutionary ecology. Highly recommended." --*CHOICE*

"*Approaches to Plant Evolutionary Ecology* is an enjoyable and worthwhile read and will be of interest to students of plant evolutionary ecology." --*Trends in Ecology and Evolution*

"Cheplick's treatment is a thorough reference for the areas covered. This book will certainly remain at hand on my bookshelf, and I recommend it to my students." --*Christopher T. Ivey, Ecology*

"Cheplick has a pithy, informative style of writing, and his occasional use of vernacular or light humor is entertaining. He treats the topics he reviews thoroughly. There is a good level of methodological detail included, which would be helpful for someone weighing tradeoffs with respect to alternative approaches to tackling a question. This volume could also be a valuable starting point for a new graduate student or advanced undergrad in need of an introduction to the topic...Cheplick's treatment is a thorough reference for the areas covered. This book will certainly remain at hand on my bookshelf, and I recommend it to my students." -- *The Ecologist*

About the Author

Gregory P. Cheplick, Ph.D. Professor of Biology, is a plant ecologist at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. His research is on the population biology of herbaceous plants, including grasses and their fungal endophytes, in relation to abiotic and biotic conditions.

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