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Biological Environmental Science. By W. V. Dashek. Editor D. E. McMillin. Enfield, NH, USA: Science Publishers (2009), pp. 236, US\$30.00 (paperback). ISBN 9-781578085361.

Biological Environmental Science aims to be an introductory textbook for undergraduate students in environmental science. The book covers quite a range of areas, mainly various forms of pollution, but also global warming, biodiversity, population growth and environmental law. A strong point of the book is its extensive collections of references. In the preface the author claims that 'the book utilizes the original research literature'. This is a rather fitting description, since it provides very little added value to this collection of references. In large parts the book reads as if the author had abstracted parts of the research literature, as well as applicable websites. Unfortunately these abstracts were not then connected into a coherent text. Basically the reader needs to consult the original literature in order to get any information.

The chapter on global warming, for example, contains a section on the effects of CO₂ and climate change on biological organisms. This section consists of four paragraphs listing references where the reader could find information on these, while lacking a detailed discussion of the actual effects. The reader therefore needs to consult the original literature in order to actually get the information one would expect from an undergraduate textbook. I therefore feel unable to recommend the book in any way.

Thomas Kleinen

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Conserving Plant Genetic Resources in Protected Areas. Edited by J. M. Iriondo, N. Maxted and M. E. Dulloo. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2008), pp. 288, £75.00. ISBN 978-1-84593-282-4.

The Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 placed obligations on nations to look after the biodiversity in their care and emphasized the link between conservation and use. Conservation for reasons of heritage and ecosystem function are now placed alongside conservation for use in crop improvement, and in this book, one of a pair arising from an EU project on crop wild relatives, the authors are working towards a synthesis of ideas from the crop and wild plant conservation communities to place a new focus on the *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives. Despite a title that is not fully explicit, this book tackles the conservation of specifically crop wild relative genetic diversity in nature reserves and other protected areas.

The sharing of chapter authorship and editorial roles gives an impression of a narrow pool of expertise, yet the book can justifiably claim to be a comprehensive review, covering the background to the topic, the design and selection of appropriate reserves, their management, techniques for monitoring and reinstating diversity, and the interaction between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. One chapter tackles the drawbacks of *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives, and in particular the vulnerability to change and the difficulty of access by users. Although climate change as a driver for population genetic and range change is discussed, a more comprehensive treatment would be valuable. Altogether, this book delivers well on its promise of synthesizing knowledge and management guidelines for students, researchers, conservationists and policy makers.

Gavin Ramsay

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Ecologyhydrology. Processes, Models and Case Studies. Edited by D. Harper, M. Zalewski and N. Pacini. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2008), pp. 391, £ 75.00. ISBN 978-1-84593-002-8.

Concerns about the quality and availability of water resources grow as urban and agricultural demand increases and the climate changes. In response this book advocates an inter-disciplinary approach that marries ecology