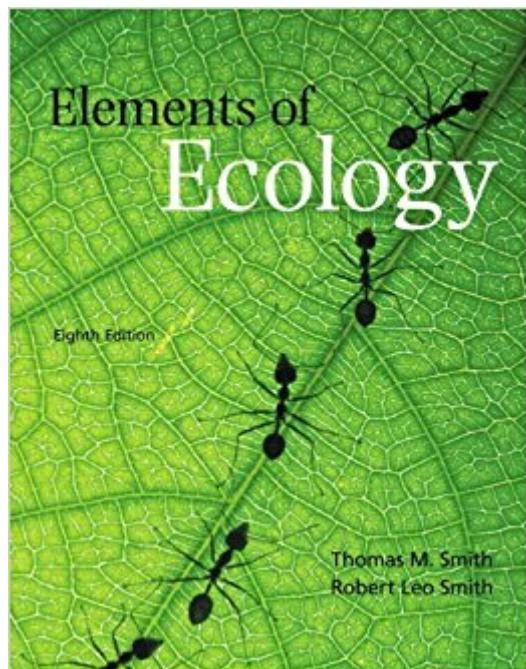


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# Elements Of Ecology (8th Edition)



## Synopsis

Known for its evolution theme and strong coverage of the relevance of ecology to everyday life and the human impact on ecosystems, the thoroughly revised Eighth Edition features expanded quantitative exercises, a restructured chapter on life history, a thoroughly revised species interactions unit including a chapter introducing the subject, and a new chapter on species interactions. To emphasize the dynamic and experimental nature of ecology, each chapter draws upon current research in the various fields of ecology while providing accessible examples that help you understand species natural history, specific ecosystems, the process of science, and ecological patterns at both an evolutionary and demographic scale. To engage you in using and interpreting data, a wide variety of Quantifying Ecology boxes walk through step-by-step examples of equations and statistical techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas M. Smith, Associate Professor in Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, received his Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Tennessee in 1982. The main focus of his research over the past two decades has been to develop an individual based theory of community and ecosystems dynamics. As part of this work he has served on numerous national and international panels that have addressed the potential influence of human activities on the global environment. He has authored over 70 publications based on his research, and he has been recognized as one of the most cited scientists in the field of global change research.

Thomas's work has taken him to over 70 countries and 6

continents. He has served on the faculty of the University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa), Australian National University (Canberra, Australia), as well as the University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA, USA). In addition, he has held research scientist positions at both Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, TN, USA) and the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Laxenburg, Austria). His has over 20 years of experience teaching the science of ecology to both science and non-science majors. Robert L. Smith holds a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology from Cornell University. He is Professor Emeritus of Ecology at West Virginia University. He has spent over 30 years teaching Ecology and conducting field research throughout the world. His teaching responsibilities have involved mostly undergraduate courses in general ecology and graduate courses in population ecology and wildlife management. His research has included forest-fire related problems in southern West Virginia, vegetational development and succession on abandoned and reclaimed surface mines, the relation between forest vegetational structure and the forest bird community, and forest habitat assessment and habitat evaluation procedures based on vegetational structure. Smith has served as a consultant to congressional committees, workshops on environmental education and energy and environmental problems, the National Landmarks program of the U.S. Department of Interior, National Research Council Task Forces on wildlife and fisheries issues and ecological classification systems for implementing environmental quality evaluation procedures.

This textbook was required for an ecology class I took over the summer of 2013. While I was not able to finish the entire book, I worked my way through just enough chapters to get a general impression of the quality of the writing and information. The authors are to be commended for doing an excellent job writing in a professional manner. Never did I sense unnecessary digressions or hurried explanations of ecological concepts. On the contrary, the authors patiently explain the complicated intricacies of ecology in such an efficient manner and in such detail that the writing can seem much too formal at times. The text is abounding with detail and while this strategy will no doubt appeal to many, the general principles can be difficult to keep track of when the text becomes overly bogged down with technicality. I have no doubt that the details were of crucial importance for a full, conceptual understanding of ecology, yet I could not help wondering if the same information could not be conveyed in a more pedagogical manner, an aspect where I think Cain's *Ecology*(another leading ecology textbook) has the advantage. This criticism is insignificant considering how well structured and organized the book is and although it is not perfect, I highly recommend it.

This is my second best recommendation for a basic Ecology textbook. David Krohner's is the best. This book goes in more depth; but it does not explain the some of the terms in depth as well as Krohner's textbook. Overall a very good textbook. Krohner's is for both a Undergraduate and Graduate student. This book is for a graduate someone whom is already familiar with these concepts.

This book is being used for my Ecology and Evolution class. I ordered this book in the 8th edition because it was cheaper than the 9th edition while still retaining the majority of the value. The book is organized well and can be easily used for someone who is trying to use it as a replacement for the 9th edition book. My instructor also put the 9th edition book on reserve at my local library which makes it simpler to compare the contents, however it is also possible to compare the contents of this edition to the 9th edition by simply using the preview function on the next edition's page.

This text is packed with tons of information, to the point that every sentence has some valuable tidbits to remember. Between this fact and the way my professor jumps around in chapters and sections, it is a very difficult read and almost impossible to study from with any ease. I tried the chapter summaries as reviews, but they are missing important information and do not summarize graphs or captions. As we are not going in any chronological order, I can't tell if the book's layout is sensible or not. Apologies for the poor review.

Thank you! Book was in useable condition and that is all that matters. Plus it was paperback!!

Designated textbook for a UNCG subject. A good choice for a textbook as it is understandable, well supported with diagrams and photos. Well laid out and I could not find any editorial errors.

I did not expected the quality to be as good as new.

It's very easy to comprehend

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