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## BOOK REVIEW

KAWANABE H., COHEN J.E. & IWASAKI K. (eds): MUTUALISM AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. Behavioural, Theoretical, and Food-Web Approaches. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1993, 426 pp. ISBN 0-19-854027-2.

In 1990, a symposium entitled "Mutualism, co-operation and organization in natural communities" was held in Japan. Although this book is the product of this symposium, it is much more than merely the proceedings of a standard symposium. The organizers and editors divided the area of interest into six sections, each of them having a few contributions in the form of a lecture (the original scientific paper), and the summarizing discussion prepared by discussion leader. This style of work, completed with introduction and concluding remarks by the editors, make the book coherent and a general overview of our knowledge in this special field, as well as a source of innovative approaches in studying and understanding basic ecological patterns and processes.

The first chapter studies the hierarchy of organization in nature, from individual to community. The second explains the effect of predation (both herbivory and carnivory) on community structure. In the third, one learns about the diversity of relationships within food-webs, especially competition and mutualism, in the fourth the evolution of co-operation, symbiosis and mutualism is examined. The importance of complex, indirect interactions between organisms, and of mediators of interspecific relationship taking part in structuring communities is discussed in the fifth chapter. The sum of information and hypotheses is finished with view on future perspectives in studying ecological complexity, analysing species abundance and balance direct and indirect effects in evolution of community structure.

The papers are illustrated by a number of graphs, tables and equations, though photographs are rare. Author and subject indexes are added.

Although the book presents relevant information on the role of mutualistic and other interactions within diverse types of communities (terrestrial, freshwater and marine, small- and large-scaled), and a wide range of approaches and theories, it may appear somewhat biased by the selection of the contributors. Of 32, one half are japanesse, nine are from the North America and six from Europe (mainly Britain). Thus, the purchase of this book is recommended, particularly to European ecologists, for possible completion and discussion of the topics in specialist journals.

*O. Nedvěd*