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T VS 13

being alive on land
edited by N.S. Margaris,
M. Arianoustou-Faraggitaki
and W.C. Oechel

Tasks for vegetation science 13

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Being alive on land

*PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON ADAPTATIONS TO THE TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT
HELD IN HALKIDIKI, GREECE, 1982*

edited by

N.S. MARGARIS, M. ARIANOUSOU-FARAGGITAKI
and W.C. OECHEL

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Series editor's forward

The 'Kassandra symposia' for biological topics concerning the problems in the Mediterranean region have become an established activity through the efforts of Dr. Margaris. Not all of these symposia fit into the T:VS series. This volume, edited by Drs. Margaris, Arianoutsou-Farragitaki, and Oeschel, is to a certain extent the continuation of the T:VS volume 4 , edited by Drs. Mooney and Margaris.

The somewhat unusual title for a scientific book must be understood in that respect. It is difficult for the organizers of symposia to receive enough contributions for a particular topic and at the same time find the best contributors from a wide geographical distribution.

The table of contents shows that adaptive mechanisms of plants were the main concern during the symposium during which this volume was generated. The majority of the papers deal with Mediterranean type and Tundra ecosystems.

The topics dealt with during the meeting were so extensive that the papers could not be expected to cover everything. There are, however, substantial contributions to the individual problems presented by several authors.

The ecosystem concept applied in this symposium makes it possible that a variety of plant groups are discussed. While this may appear as a collage of papers at first sight, it becomes clear when all the Kassandra symposia are considered that Dr. Margaris intends to compile as much ecosystem information as possible for the Phryganic ecosystem type. Much basic information needs to be compiled before an ecosystems model can be designed.

As the editor of the T:VS series I see it as one objective that much of the material needed for the modelling of the Mediterranean type ecosystems will be accumulated in this series.

One of the major problems for the editors was the editing of the manuscripts from authors outside of the English speaking countries. Since the editors themselves are not from the English tongue, the team of the series editor tried to copy-edit as much as possible. We hope that we have caught most of the errors. It was not possible, however, to change complete passages or pages in a manuscript which was delivered in camera ready form.

In spite of the linguistic shortcoming I believe that the volume presents a substantial contribution to the analysis of adaptation of plants to stress habitats..

Osnabrück, February 1984

H. Lieth

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INTRODUCTION

The present volume includes papers presented in the International Symposium on Adaptations to Terrestrial Environment, held in Halkidiki, Greece from September 26th to October 2nd, 1982, as well as some invited ones from well known scientists working in the same field.

It seemed rather optimistic to deal just in the same volume with such a variety of organisms (micro-organisms to higher plants) on the basis of their adaptive strategies for survival on land. It would appear as the entire ecology ought to be included. It was a challenge for us. We undertook this challenge hoping that the output would not be unsuccessful.

The Editors allowed the authors of the accepted papers great leeway in terms of thoroughness of their contributions. The quality of the papers included is high while some of them had to be rewritten in order to include valuable comments developed during the Symposium discussions. We have tried to include many papers from Eastern Europe since generally, because of the language problem, they do not get widely known. The Editors wish to express their thankfulness to UNESCO for sponsoring the Symposium in the frame of Man and Biosphere Program; to all scientists who have contributed papers in this volume; and to Mrs. A. Karamanli-Vlahopoulou for her patient and skillful typing of part of the manuscript.

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