The book is organized into four major parts, each with a brief introduction: I—Trophic relationships, II—Populations, III—Coexistence and competition, and IV—Communities and distributions. Within each section are 4 to 6 chapters, preceded by an outline. This organizational format is quite useful in locating information on particular topics, although it makes it difficult to read the book in entirety. In several cases, a topic may be placed out of sequence in different parts. For example, some aspects of predator-prey interactions are in a chapter on “coevolution of predator and prey” and in another chapter on “predator-prey population dynamics.” These are both in the section on Trophic relationships, which precedes the introduction to populations. Despite these complaints, the organization of the book is logical, and in general leads the reader through concepts well.

Price’s general bent is towards evolutionary ecology, and he is at his best when discussing evolutionary concepts. His chapters are taken from lectures in his course at Illinois (I was a student, and thus am probably given to bias), and several stand out as quite excellent: coevolution of plants and herbivores, energetics of locomotion and evolution of insect flight, strategies of reproduction, the niche concept and division of resources. There are also interesting chapters on specialized topics like populations under insecticide stress, biological control, pollination ecology, social insects and biogeography. The only weakness in coverage is in the community ecology section where a rather well-developed topic of much discussion in the literature (diversity and stability) is treated briefly. Overall, the coverage ranges from adequate to thorough, with most chapters receiving the latter designation.

Arachnologists and others will be disappointed at the only occasional references to non-insect groups, although this should be expected given the title. Still, despite a variety of interesting and significant papers on the ecology of spiders, only three are mentioned. Perhaps the coverage will be better in the next edition.

In summary, I found this book to be excellent for updating one’s knowledge of ecology in general, and for learning about the evolutionary ecology of insects in particular. Arachnologists interested in obtaining a good, basic text in ecology with a perspective they can relate to would do well to choose this one.

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NOMENCLATURAL NOTE

Opinion 1083 of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 24 (1): 30-32) suppressed the generic name Dapanus Hentz 1837 and places it on the Official Index ofRejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (Invalid name no. 2087) and placed Pisaurina Simon with the type-species by monotypy Dolomedus minus Walckenaer, 1837 on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the name no. 2046. This was voted on 22 September 1976, with affirmative ballots 21, negative none, and abstention one, and was certified by the secretary R. V. Melville on 1 March 1977.