

Sukopp, H., Numata, M., Huber, A. (ed.): **Urban Ecology as the Basis of Urban Planning**. - SPB Academic Publishing, The Hague 1995. viii + 218 pp. NLG 75.00. ISBN 90-5103-096-7.

Urban ecology reflects the reality that towns and cities as they have developed through history represent not only important forms of human coexistence, but also of relationships between man and nature. The importance of wild plant and animal life for man is nothing unknown or surprising. Ideas of protection and reintroduction of nature into urban areas, however, need to be forwarded by practical measures and introduced into material planning instruments.

The book purports to present "some recent studies suitable for being integrated into the planning process"; it is divided into five parts including altogether thirteen chapters.

First part begins with fundamental paper about a theory of urban biocoenoses. Following articles present scientific studies on flora, fauna, and vegetation in selected settlements in Europe and Asia, with special attention to human influence on the ecosystems of villages, towns and cities. Other articles contain suggestions for translation of botanical and zoological inventory studies into urban planning.

Part 1 (Theory and methodology) contains two chapters: Towards a theory of urban biocoenoses (L. Trepl), and Approaches to studying spontaneous settlement flora and vegetation in Central Europe: A review (P. Pyšek). Part 2 (Cities) contains four chapters:

The plants cover of archaeological sites in Central Italy (E. Pignatti, S. Pignatti and F. Lucchese), The flora of old town centres in Europe (D. Brandes), An analysis of the flora in Tienjin (D. Hu, R. Wang and T. Tang), and Ecological studies on urban lawns (G. Broll and B. Keplin). Part 3 focuses on villages: Vegetation dynamics of macchie and their derivatives under the influence of a small settlement near Antalya, SW-Turkey (H. Kehl) and Flora and vegetation of various types of settlements in the Czech Republic: a concise comparison (A. Pašek and S. Hejny). Part 4 (Green spaces) contains three chapters: Habitat conservation and development in the city of Düsseldorf, Germany (M. Gödde, N. Richarz and B. Walter), Survey, mapping and evaluation of green space in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (J.O. Rieley and S.E. Page), Re-creation of new nature and rehabilitation of natural forests on building sites in Japan (K. Fujiwara). The last part (Human ecology) contains two chapters: Animals and man in the process of urbanization (H. Obara) and Urban wildlife and human well-being (L.W. Vandruff, D.L. Leedy and F.W. Stearns).

The volume will be appreciated by both scientists from the basic research and managers who are in charge of urban planning, nature protection and biodiversity.

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