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**Soil Animals.** *Kevan, D. Keith* McE. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 1962. 000 p. \$10.00.

In recent years a few zoologists have been investigating the fascinating and diverse fauna of the soil. At the same time soil scientists have been noticing that animals comprise a significant component of soils. As a result a world-wide movement in the investigation of soil animals has developed. The soil is at the same time the most accessible and most poorly investigated ecological niche remaining on earth. It is the last terrestrial frontier for zoological exploration where the explorer can expect to find many kinds of animals previously unknown to science. Exploration of the soil is so incomplete that only outer space offers a comparable opportunity for the discovery of new forms.

Professor Kevan has blended a knowledge of soil science and zoology into what will surely become a standard reference in this new field of zoology. The approach that is taken in this book is ecological. It is good ecology in that the different kinds of animals are considered in some detail before the fauna as a whole is taken into account. The chapters on sampling and ecology should be read by all who have any interest in the soil. The last two chapters and the conclusion present an account of the significance of knowledge of the soil fauna. This portion of the book could well be studied by individuals who have the responsibility for directing research programs concerned with agricultural production.

It is not often that a pioneering book that covers a relatively unknown area can be highly recommended to a broad group of readers. Kevan's *Soil Animals* is such a book because the topic is important, the writing is clear and concise, and the illustrations supplement the written word in a meaningful manner.

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