
Pflanzensoziologie. *J. Braun-Blanquet.* Springer-Verlag, Vienna, and New York. Third Edition, 1964. xiv+865 p. illus. \$42.50.

The distinguishing work of the various schools of ecology can usually be singled out, with little effort. This volume fills that niche for the SIGMA school (Station Internationale de Geobotanique Mediterraneene et Alpine) and its eminent leader, J. Braun-Blanquet. It by no means is a compendium of plant ecology. Rather, like many ecology texts, it bears the heavy stamp of the author's philosophy. Those who hope to find a complete or nearly complete survey of ecological research will be disappointed. The book clearly represents a statement of only one school of ecology.

The first section of the volume considers the plant community, but almost exclusively from the SIGMA phytosociological viewpoint. The next major section is devoted to environmental considerations. Although this section has been substantially enlarged, in comparison with the second edition, it is still deficient in some respects. The third major section deals with physiological ecology. The last sections are devoted to communities in time (succession and paleovegetation) and in space (zonation, vegetation regions, vegetation mapping).

The appalling price will undoubtedly and unfortunately restrict distribution. Nevertheless, this edition of *Pflanzensoziologie* is a splendid summation of a long period of research and a tribute to a great ecologist. Minimally it ought to be ordered for libraries as a reference for staff and advanced students. For ecologists who read German with some facility and who are not well acquainted with the SIGMA philosophy, it would be a worthy addition to their own personal collections. An English translation would be welcomed for those who do not read German with ease.

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