

Field Manual of Plant Ecology

by

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> FIRST EDITION SECOND IMPRESSION

NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON McGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY, INC. 1949

PREFACE

Having taught plant ecology at the University of Michigan Biological Station during the past thirty-two summers, the author has acceded to repeated requests for a manual based on this course.

The course was initiated and developed in line with Agassiz's famous maxim: "Study nature, not books," in addition to which special effort was made to use as little and as simple apparatus as possible. The aim was to work with plants at all times. Both high-school and college students can use the manual with suitable modification in any part of the country.

At the present time (1949) several excellent books are available for reference and study. While the author still maintains that fundamentally the best results are obtained when the novice explores the subject for himself with a minimum of direction and instrumentation, he is not blind to the broadening of horizon obtained from consulting certain well-chosen books dealing with ecology. To name but a few, one may call attention to the following, of which the first two are excellent textbooks for vegetational ecology, and the third is most useful for the study of individual plants.

1. WEAVER, JOHN E., and F. E. CLEMENTS, "Plant Ecology," 2d ed., McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1938.

2. BRAUN-BLANQUET, J., "Plant Sociology," translated and revised by G. D. Fuller and H. S. Conard, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1932.

3. COWLES, H. C., "Ecology," revised and enlarged by G. D. Fuller, American Book Company, New York. 1931.

4. WELCH, PAUL S., "Limnology" (zoological), McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1935.

5. SHELFORD, V. E., "Laboratory and Field Ecology" (zoological), The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore. 1929.

6. CLEMENTS, F. E., and V. E. SHELFORD, "Bioecology," John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1939.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	v
Introduction	1
Association and Other Units	9
Directions for Exercises in Plant Ecology	13
Quadrat method	13
Types of quadrats	14
List quadrat	14
Exercise 1. List quadrats	17
Count quadrat	17
Exercise 2. Count quadrats	18
Area list quadrat	19
Exercise 3. Area list quadrats	19
Basal area	20
Exercise 4. Basal area	22
Recording quadrats by photography	22
Exercise 5. Recording quadrats by photography	23
Pantograph charts	23
Exercise 6. Charting by pantograph	25
Area quadrats by squares	25
Exercise 7. Charting by squares	25
Additional charting	25
Point-observation quadrat	26
Exercise 8. Point-observation quadrats	27
Forest modification of the point-observation method	27
Exercise 9. Forest modification of the point-observation	
method	28
Permanent quadrats	28
Exercise 10. Permanent quadrats	29
Denuded quadrats	29
Exercise 11. Denuded quadrats	29
Clip quadrats	29
Exercise 12. Clip quadrats	30
Tree count	30
Simple tree count for frequency	30