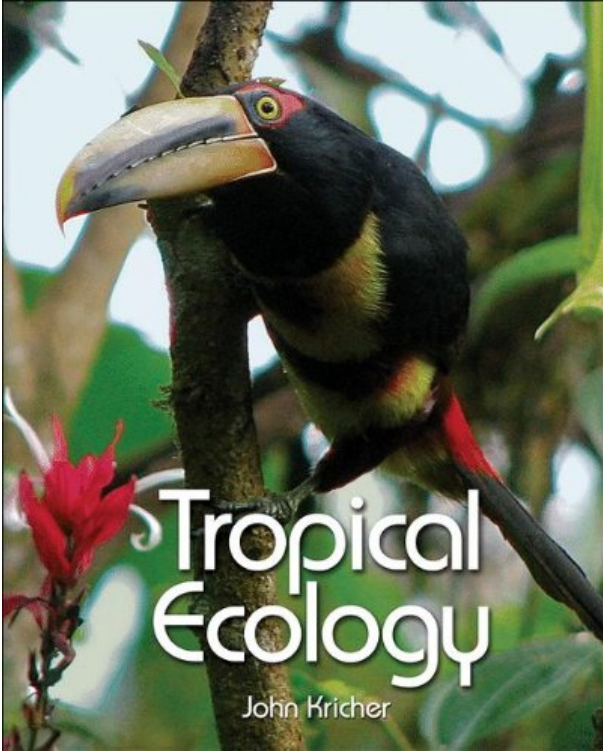
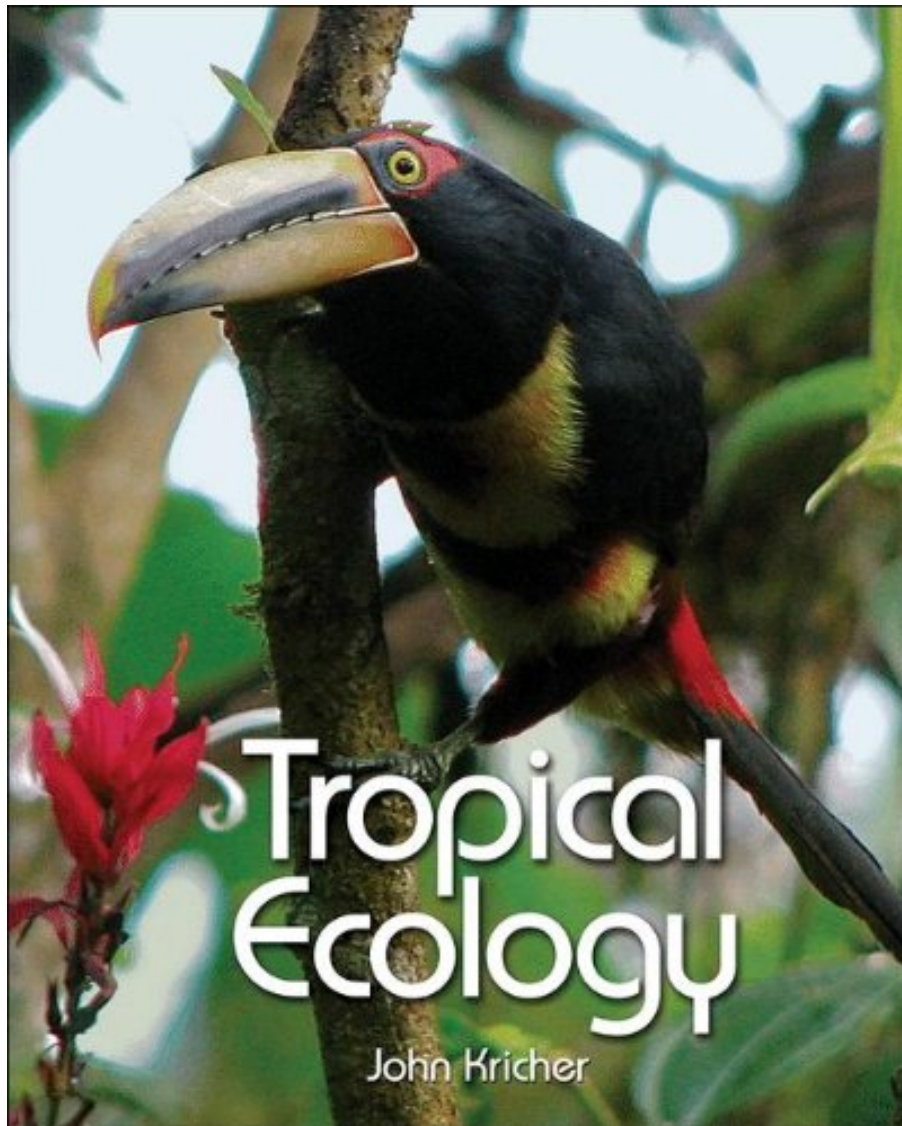


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This full-color illustrated textbook offers the first comprehensive introduction to all major aspects of tropical ecology. It explains why the world's tropical rain forests are so universally rich in species, what factors may contribute to high species richness, how nutrient cycles affect rain forest ecology, and how ecologists investigate the complex interrelationships among flora and fauna. It covers tropical montane ecology, riverine ecosystems, savanna, dry forest--and more.

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- Suitable for courses with a field component

Leading universities that have adopted this book include:

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7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

A fantastic and important book

By Amazon Customer

There are many good books available about ecology but only few which specialise on the tropics.

This book focuses on the ecology of the tropics and it is a remarkable achievement. Illustrated with many graphics and pictures and written in a very easy to read language it is very interesting and it was really hard to stop reading in it - not something you can say of most scientific books.

The book covers all the important topics in tropical ecology incl. nutrient cycles, the reason for the biodiversity in the tropics, trophic dynamics, carbon cycles and much more. The main focus is on rain forests but other ecosystems like savannas are also covered.

The author knows the Neotropics best and so many examples and stories from the book are from the Neotropics but other areas like Africa and south-east Asia are also covered.

The author explains everything from an evolutionary point of view which is crucial for understanding how biodiversity developed and how ecosystems work in the tropics. Without a solid grasp of evolution, it would be impossible to understand tropical ecology.

I also loved the chapters on conservation. It think the author paints a very realistic picture. Neither a "Don't worry, everything will be fine" nor a "It is too late, the tropics are doomed" attitude. In the end it is encouraging for the reader to travel to the tropics and to get active for their conservation.

A note about potential readers: The book is targeted mostly at college students but I think everyone with an interest in the tropics (e.g. bird watchers, conservationists, travellers, government employees, etc) can and should read this book.

I think anyone who can read English can read and understand this book.

There is hardly anything to criticise. Typos are very few for such a large book.

I would have liked to read a bit more about the importance of top predators like Jaguars, Pumas, Anacondas and Harpy Eagles (in the Neotropics) or Leopards and African Crowned Eagles (African tropics) for biodiversity

but the topic is covered and there is still a lot to learn about those species and their effects on biodiversity. This is just a very minor point and the author cannot cover every potential topic in detail - unless he writes a book with 20,000 pages. For readers with a detailed interest in the importance of large predators I recommend *Trophic Cascades: Predators, Prey, and the Changing Dynamics of Nature and The Wolf's Tooth: Keystone Predators, Trophic Cascades, and Biodiversity*.

Of course, one book cannot cover everything and I also recommend the following books about tropical ecology

and conservation: *Tropical Rain Forest Ecology, Diversity, and Conservation* and *Tropical Rain Forests: An Ecological and Biogeographical Comparison*

For more information about conservation in general, I recommend: *Essentials of Conservation Biology*, Fifth Edition.

For the challenges in protecting predators, particularly cats (most cat species occur in the tropics), read: *The Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids* (Oxford Biology)

Also of interest is the author's other book: *The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth*

And last, this upcoming book about Neotropical raptors will also be of importance: *Neotropical Birds of Prey: Biology and Ecology of a Forest Raptor Community* (Published in Association With the Peregrine Fund)

To sum up, this book is a must read for anyone interested in the ecology, evolution and conservation of the tropics.

I hope the publisher makes a Spanish translation available for the many Spanish speaking people in the Neotropics.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The book has detailed good story of the tropics

By Beatrix

The book is very well written and full of very interesting information. I am a journalist/ photographer and all new on that subject but it is giving me amazing information on the Tropics. When you get to a word or two that are difficult to understand there is always an explanation next to it. You can find anything from Americas tropical ecology and from around the world. Plants, animals, birds, soil, comparisons, names of the animals, their behavior in the forest, very interesting descriptions of the regions, mountains and animals in details in an easy way of understanding. I am also reading Emmons, *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals* and she is also very good but it is more like a dictionary/ encyclopedia with a lot of detailed descriptions of each species with several local and scientific names therefore more used for researchers and for students. I bought *Tropical Ecology* 06 months ago. I still have not finished reading it therefore I believe its content is much wider than my brief opinion here.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE KINDLE EDITION OF TROPICAL ECOLOGY.

By Anonymocaris

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