BOOK REVIEWS

New Books Received


Invasion Biology: Critique of a Pseudoscience

Invasion Biology: Critique of a Pseudoscience will raise a concerned eyebrow of the experienced researcher and enlighten the novice to be wary of following the scientific dogma. The author presents a convincing critique of the status and direction of theory and politics of the controversial topic of invasive species, although, as the subtitle infers, this is not a nonbiased critique but more of an attack. He leads the reader through a well-organized argument that scientists, human nature (emotionalism, paranoid belief systems, and extremism), and self-interested bureaucracy have blindly built a negative hysteria surrounding introduced species as a threat to native ecosystems and biodiversity. Moreover, he argues that with the majority of introduced species there is little to no negative result but the species may in fact help to increase biodiversity, hasten evolution, strengthen ecosystems processes, and “act as an important force for healing the planet.”

The content of the book is well organized with an introduction which includes a thorough outline of critiques and results