

Springer

1st  
edition

XII, 248 p. 10 illus.

**Printed book**

Hardcover

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Hardcover

ISBN 978-90-6193-652-7

\$ 279,99

Available

**Discount group**

Professional Books (2)

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Contributed volume

**Series**

Tasks for Vegetation Science

Life Sciences : Ecosystems

Specht, R.L., Rundel, P.W., Westman, W.E., Catling, P.C., Majer, J.D., Greenslade, P. (Eds.)

# Mediterranean-type Ecosystems

**A data source book**

The regions of the world which experience a mediterranean type climate, with a cool wet season alternating with a hot dry summer, contain some of the world's most attractive landscapes. In the Old World, the mediterranean landscapes became the cradle of civilization; other mediterranean areas of the world have attracted considerable populations for many centuries. These large human populations have exerted considerable stress on the fragile ecosystems which developed in these sunny, but droughted, fire-prone landscapes. The mediterranean landscape has thus become one of the most threatened in the world. In recent years much has been learned about the structure and function of mediterranean-type ecosystems (Di Castri and Mooney 1973, Mooney 1977, Thrower and Bradbury 1977, Mooney and Conrad 1977, Specht 1979, 1981, Miller 1981, Di Castri et al. 1981, Conrad and Oechel 1982, Queze 1982, Margaris and Mooney 1981, Kruger et al. 1983, Long and Pons 1984, Dell et al. 1986, Tenhunen et al. 1987). Much of this research has been fostered under the International Biological Program (IBP), UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) and, recently, the International Society of Mediterranean Ecologists (ISOMED). To facilitate intercontinental comparisons, many of these studies have concentrated on a limited number of intensive sites thought to be representative of a general region.

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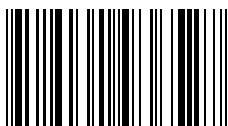
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ISBN 978-90-6193-652-7 / BIC: PSAF / SPRINGER NATURE: SCL1904X

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