Contents

Lists of Figures and Tables		
Preface		
Introduction		
1 Thinking about the Environment 1.1 Reality and ideals 1.2 Thinking in frameworks 1.3 Sociobiology	9 9 12 16	
2 Frameworks2.1 Economic, political and moral thinking2.2 Looking forward	21 21 27	
3 Ecology: What It Is and What It Isn't 3.1 Two kinds of ecology 3.2 Scientific ecology 3.3 Ecologists at work 3.4 Null hypotheses	31 31 35 38 42	
4 Ecology in Perspective 4.1 Some history 4.2 Mathematical ecology 4.3 Connections	45 45 55 62	
 5 Reductions and Holism 5.1 Parts and wholes 5.2 Varieties of reduction 5.3 Occam's razor 	66 68 73	
 6 Nature and Existence 6.1 Ontological parasites 6.2 The properties of wholes 6.3 Nature and the natural 	80 80 84 88	
 7 Ecological Explanation 7.1 Modes of explanation 7.2 Theories and things 7.3 Forest succession 	92 92 97 101	
8 Supervenience and Essence	109	

8.1 Functions and supervenience

8.2 Ecological traits

109

112

Contents

	8.3 Ecological communities	119
	8.4 Community role and the Gaia hypothesis	124
9	Theory, Fact and Value	133
	9.1 Science and ethics	133
	9.2 Reinterpreting the moral	136
	9.3 Deep ecology and ethics	139
10	Puzzles About Value	146
	10.1 Biocentrism and worth	146
	10.2 Systemic value	149
	10.3 Two modes of valuing	152
11	The Environment and Conventional Moral Theory	157
	11.1 The tragedy of the commons	157
	11.2 Prospects for environmental ethics	163
	11.3 Utilitarian and contractarian accounts	165
12	Beyond the Social Contract	173
	12.1 Ethics beyond utility	173
	12.2 Persons, primary goods and duality	178
	12.3 Living in nature	182
13	Living in the New Community	186
	13.1 Ethical polymorphism and environmentalism	186
	13.2 Nature, role and function	190
	13.3 Taking stock	195
14	Practical Matters	201
	14.1 Political and economic frameworks	201
	14.2 International co-operation	209
	14.3 Education and other animals	215
Bibliography		222
Tn,	Index	

Figures and Tables

Figures

4.1	Model of trophic structure	5
4.2	Exponential discrete growth	5
4.3	Discrete growth stabilising at carrying capacity K	5
4.4	Continuous growth limited at carrying capacity K	5
4.5a	Imagined effects of introducing interspecific	
	competition	6
4.5b	How strong competition might lead to extinction	6
4.6	Growth of Paramecium populations in separate culture	
	and in mixed culture	6
4.7	Effect of competition on Paramecium populations	6
8.1	Symbiotic protozoa in termites	12
8.2	Comparison of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells	12
	Tables	
7.1	Horn's Markov matrix	103
79	Successional convergence over time	103