

Contents

Preface	viii
Glossary	ix
PART I PRELIMINARIES	1
1 Putting it in Perspective: The Palaeorecord and Climate Reconstructions	3
1.1 Methods of Palaeoclimatic Reconstruction	3
1.2 Methods of Chronology Determination	5
1.3 Sources of Palaeoclimatic Information	8
Box 1.1. CO ₂ and climate	16
Box 1.2. Dendroclimatology: the hockey stick debate	18
1.4 Causes of Climatic Variability	21
1.5 The History of the Earth's Climate	24
1.6 Conclusions	27
2 Projecting Future Climates	29
2.1 What are Scenarios?	29
2.2 From Emissions to Climate Projections: General Circulation Models	32
2.3 Regional Models and the Problem of Downscaling	36
Box 2.1. The issue of consensus	37
2.4 Hindcasts and Model Validation	38
2.5 Model Results and Projections	41
2.6 Conclusions	44
Box 2.2. Potential carbon sequestration in cultivated soils	48
3 Methods for Studying the Impacts of Climatic Change	50
3.1 Observational Methods	50
3.2 Experimental Methods	53
Box 3.1. Step changes versus natural changes in CO ₂ concentrations	58
3.3 Theoretical and Statistical Methods	61
3.4 Conclusions	69
PART II IMPACTS FROM PHYSIOLOGY TO EVOLUTION	71
4 Physiological Responses	73
4.1 Photosynthesis Review	73
4.2 Photosynthetic Responses to Climatic Change	76
4.3 Nutrient- and Water-use Efficiencies	80
4.4 Growth Responses	81
4.5 Phenological Responses	83
Box 4.1. Degree-day models of phenology	84
4.6 Changes in Plant Quality and Defences	85
4.7 Conclusions	86

5	Population Responses in Time and Space	88
5.1	What is a Population and How Do We Study its Response?	88
5.2	Functional Trait and Within-species Responses to Climatic Change	91
5.3	Complex Population Dynamics in Time: Lags, Cycles and Regime Shifts	91
	Box 5.1. Are insect herbivore responses to elevated CO ₂ idiosyncratic?	92
5.4	Range Shifts and Spatial Distributions	95
5.5	Clonal Growth Responses to Climatic Change	101
5.6	Conclusions	101
	Box 5.2. How will plant population migration occur?	102
6	Community Composition and Dynamics	104
6.1	Changes in the Distribution and Abundance of Coexisting Populations	104
6.2	The Challenges of Studying Climate Change Effects on Communities	108
6.3	Evidence for Global Warming Effects on Community Composition and Diversity	111
6.4	Evidence for Effects of Altered Precipitation on Community Composition	113
6.5	Evidence for Effects of Elevated Atmospheric CO ₂ on Community Composition	114
6.6	Climate Change, Disturbance and Succession	114
6.7	Multitrophic Responses to Climatic Change	115
6.8	Conclusions	117
	Box 6.1. Animal communities and climate change	118
7	Ecosystem Responses	119
7.1	Ecosystems and Carbon	119
7.2	Factors that Regulate Carbon Sequestration	121
7.3	Impacts on Net Primary Productivity	124
7.4	Impacts on Heterotrophic Respiration	129
7.5	Impacts on Net Ecosystem Productivity	132
	Box 7.1. Sink or source? Assessing ecosystem carbon balance	134
7.6	Impacts on Nutrient Cycling	136
7.7	Conclusions	140
8	Evolutionary Responses to Climatic Change	141
8.1	Phenotypic Plasticity and Ecological Fitting	141
8.2	Genetic Variation	143
8.3	Adaptive Rescue	145
8.4	Rapid Evolution	146
	Box 8.1. Adaptation in a high-CO ₂ world	148
8.5	Experimental Evolution	150
8.6	Correlated Genetic Traits	152
8.7	Conclusions	153
	Box 8.2. Environmentally dependent sex determination	154
PART III APPLICATIONS		157
9	Responses by Soil Organisms	159
9.1	Responses of the Detrital System	160
	Box 9.1. Soil freeze–thaw dynamics	164
9.2	Responses of the Biotrophic System	164
9.3	Soil Food Web Responses	167
9.4	Plant–Soil Feedbacks	168
9.5	Conclusions	171

10	The Future of Forest Productivity	172
10.1	Impacts on Net Primary Production	172
10.2	Carbon Allocation Patterns	175
10.3	Changes in Disturbance Regimes	176
	Box 10.1. The mountain pine beetle epidemic in British Columbia, Canada	180
10.4	Conclusions	182
11	The Future of Agricultural Production	183
11.1	Impacts on Crop Systems	183
11.2	Potential for Adaptation	187
11.3	Future Agricultural Production	189
	Box 11.1. Traits for adaptation to elevated CO ₂	190
11.4	The Future of Crop Protection	191
	Box 11.2. Global food security in a changing climate	192
11.5	Conclusions	197
12	Impacts on Biodiversity	199
12.1	Consequences of Biodiversity Loss	199
12.2	Measures of Biodiversity	201
12.3	Biodiversity Patterns at Local, Regional and Global Spatial Scales	202
12.4	Biodiversity Decline and Climatic Change	203
	Box 12.1. Palaeological extinction rates and climatic change	205
12.5	Diversity–Productivity, Diversity–Stability and Diversity–Disturbance Relationships	206
12.6	Invasive Species and Climate Change	208
12.7	Protected Areas and Other Management Practices in a Changing Climate	209
12.8	Conservation Priorities for the Future	210
12.9	Conclusions	213
	Box 12.2. Is ‘assisted colonization’ an appropriate conservation strategy?	214
PART IV	FINAL CONSIDERATIONS	217
13	Multiple Stressors	219
13.1	Global Ecological Changes and Climatic Change	219
13.2	Interactive Effects and Positive Feedbacks	219
13.3	Stress versus Disturbance	221
13.4	Climate Change and Disturbance Events	222
13.5	CO ₂ Elevation, Temperature and Precipitation	225
13.6	Climate Change and Nitrogen Deposition	227
13.7	Climate Change and Ozone	229
13.8	Climate Change, Land Use and Habitat Loss	229
13.9	Conclusions	231
	Box 13.1. Human-induced versus climate-induced changes? Two vignettes	232
14	The Limits of Science	234
14.1	Introduction	234
14.2	Factors Limiting Our Ability to Make Predictions	234
14.3	Persistent Uncertainty and the Limits of Science	240
14.4	Conclusions	243
	References	245
	Index	281