

A Neotropical Companion

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widely praised a neotropical companion is an extraordinarily readable introduction to the american tropics the lands of central and south america their rainforests and other ecosystems and the creatures that live there 177 color illustrations

a neotropical companion introduces armchair travelers field naturalists and conservationists to the tropics of central and south america in recent years the neotropics have been more and more frequently visited by those interested in rain forests and the exotic birds mammals insects and plants of these ecosystems at the same time scientific knowledge of the neotropics has burgeoned a primer for the student and for the scientific amateur this well illustrated volume presents a general and up to date view of some of the world s most complex natural environments in addition it provides the neotropical specialist with a broad look at the entire field of neotropical biology after giving an overview of the different kinds of ecosystems in the tropics the author describes the structure function and evolution of tropical rain forests tropical trees are then discussed as are the vast array of vines orchids bromeliads and other plants that live among the branches of the forest giants a chapter on the tropical pharmacy treats the many drugs present in tropical vegetation and the evolutionary influence of these drugs the book surveys the great diversity of birds mammals reptiles amphibians and arthropods of the neotropics and provides separate chapters on tropical savannas and on coastal ecosystems an epilogue deals with the crucially important issues of the conservation of neotropical environments

the acclaimed guide to the ecology and natural history of the american tropics now fully updated and expanded the new neotropical companion is the completely revised and expanded edition of a book that has helped thousands of people to understand the complex ecology and natural history of the most species rich area on earth the american tropics featuring stunning color photos throughout it is a sweeping and cutting edge account of tropical ecology that includes not only tropical rain forests but also other ecosystems such as cloud forests rivers savannas and mountains this is the only guide to the american tropics that is all inclusive encompassing the entire region s ecology and the amazing relationships among species rather than focusing just on species identification the new neotropical companion is a book unlike any other here you will learn how to recognize distinctive ecological patterns of rain forests and other habitats and to interpret how these remarkable ecosystems function everything is explained in clear and engaging prose free of jargon you will also be introduced to the region s astonishing plant and animal life informative and entertaining the new neotropical companion is a pleasurable escape

for armchair naturalists and visitors to the american tropics will want to refer to this book before during and after their trip covers all of tropical america describes the species and habitats most likely to be observed by visitors includes every major ecosystem from lowland rain forests to the high andes features a wealth of color photos of habitats plants and animals

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a comprehensive introduction to tropical ecology 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 tropical ecology begins with a historical overview followed by a sweeping discussion of biogeography and

evolution and then introduces students to the unique and complex structure of tropical rain forests other topics include the processes that influence everything from species richness to rates of photosynthesis how global climate change may affect rain forest characteristics and function how fragmentation of ecosystems affects species richness and ecological processes human ecology in the tropics biodiversity and conservation of tropical ecosystems and species drawing on real world examples taken from actual research tropical ecology is the best textbook on the subject for advanced undergraduates and graduate students offers the first comprehensive introduction to tropical ecology describes all the major kinds of tropical terrestrial ecosystems explains species diversity evolutionary processes and coevolutionary interactions features numerous color illustrations and examples from actual research covers global warming deforestation reforestation fragmentation and conservation the essential textbook for advanced undergraduates and graduate students suitable for courses with a field component leading universities that have adopted this book include biola university bucknell university california state university fullerton colorado state university fort collins francis marion university michigan state university middlebury college northern kentucky university ohio wesleyan university st mary s college of maryland syracuse university tulane university university of california santa cruz university of central florida university of cincinnati university of florida university of missouri university of new mexico university of north carolina at chapel hill university of the west indies

this book provides for the first time an integrative analysis of the major drivers of decline and threats of insects and related arthropods in the neotropical region thus it is an urgent first step towards filling an information gap in this region it identifies the main causes of decline provides and discusses examples from the better studied insect faunas to develop and advance principles and practical conservation management for the rich neotropical insect faunas the book is aimed at students naturalists environmental managers and others who have training in entomology insect ecology and can apply the results of surveys of key insect faunas to assess their vulnerability to environmental change and establish guidelines for their conservation

at the biological crossroads of the americas costa rica hosts one of the widest varieties of plants in the world with habitats ranging from tidal mangrove swamps and lowland rainforests to dry tropical evergreen and deciduous forests field guide to plants of costa rica is a must have reference guide for beginner and expert naturalists alike it provides a thorough survey of more than 850 plant species each entry accompanied by color photos and a concise yet detailed narrative description plants are conveniently grouped by the different types of vegetation palms tall trees shrubs woody vines herbaceous vines herbs grasses and ferns along with 1400 color photographs the guide also includes an illustrated glossary of plant parts five maps of costa rica and laminated covers for durability in the field with so much readily accessible information this book is essential for exploring costa rica s common and conspicuous flora from the plants growing along the roadside to the best natural parks

this volume in the greenwood guides to biomes of the world covers grasslands those biomes the cover vast areas of the landmass of earth it covers the two major types of grassland biomes the temperate grasslands such as the north american prairie and the tropical grassland e g the african savanna examining all aspects that define these biomes vegetation geographical distribution soil challenges posed by the environment adaptation of the plants and animals to the environment conservation efforts maps photos diagrams drawings and tables accompany the text as do sidebars that highlight habitats species and ecological relationships

you ll never fall into the tourist traps when you travel with frommer s it s like having a friend show you around taking you to the places locals like best our expert authors have already gone everywhere you might go they ve done the legwork for you and they re not afraid to tell it like it is saving you time and money no other series offers candid reviews of so many hotels and restaurants in all price ranges every frommer s travel guide is up to date with exact prices for everything dozens of color maps and exciting coverage of sports shopping and nightlife you d be lost without us completely updated every year unlike most of the competition frommer s costa rica features gorgeous color photos of the lush rain forest the amazing array of wildlife and the spectacular beaches that await you personally researched by a longtime resident it s the only truly up to date

guide that gives you such in depth coverage of this fast changing country with recommended accommodations in every price category you'll visit rugged wilderness preserves and sleepy beach towns spectacular orchid gardens and mineral hot springs at the foot of a steaming volcano there are adventures here to suit all ages and abilities swooping from treetop platform to treetop platform on a canopy tour taking a dip in a jungle swimming hole spotting playful spider monkeys as you hike through lush foliage windsurfing on lake arenal or watching endangered sea turtles nest on the beach with frommer's in hand you'll experience the wonder of costa rica's amazing biodiversity as we point out the best places to see hundreds of unique colorful species of animals and plants you'll even get a color fold out map and an online directory that makes trip planning a snap

offers information on travel accommodations restaurants shopping sights and cultural activities

environmental professionals have long felt the need for a practical reference work that takes an interdisciplinary approach to environmental research this comprehensive reference work lists books monographs journals conference proceedings government reports and other publications that contain essential information for those working to solve environmental problems professionals researchers policymakers and students

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