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Book Review

Forest Biomass. T. Satoo; edited and revised by H. A. I. Madgwick. 152 pp. illus. Martinus Nijhoff/Dr. W. Junk, The Hague, 1982. $35.00.

An unusual approach to forest ecology, this volume, translated by the author from the Japanese, opens new horizons with its presentation of new data. There has been a great surge in publications on forest biomass in recent years, but there have not been offered many commensurate summaries of points of view. As Satoo points out: "It is only during the last two decades that studies of primary production of forest ecosystems have been made worldwide and by many scientists." Biologists have been interested primarily with the physiology of forest trees, not so much on the mass production of organic matter—a combined forestry, agronomic, and ecological outlook.

The book, disarmingly abbreviated yet unexpectedly complete, is divided into six major chapters that cover, in turn, primary production, forests, methods of estimating forest biomass, biomass, production, and factors affecting rates of production. There follows a section comprising 279 references.

While the studies in this book relate basically to temperate forests, there is much that can be applied to tropical floras.

So much valuable detailed information is set forth in these few pages that a complete review is hardly possible. Suffice it to say that specialists in several disciplines will welcome such a usable assemblage of diverse data.

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