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2.1.3 Acquiring and conserving water on land2.1.4 Water as a limiting resource; 2.2 Transpiration rate; 2.2.1 Energetics; 2.2.2 Stomatal conductance; 2.3 Soil-plant-atmosphere continuum; 2.3.1 Pathway; 2.3.2 Pipe model of hydraulic architecture; 2.3.3 How vulnerable is the pipeline?; 2.4 Water relations and plant distribution patterns; 2.5 Water, carbon and nutrient relations; 2.6 Concluding remarks; 3: Nutrient Acquisition; 3.1 Availability of nutrients; 3.2 Nutrient uptake by root systems; 3.2.1 Transport through the soil; 3.2.2 Transport across the root

3.3 Responses to nutrient deficiency3.3.1 Modifying the rhizosphere; 3.3.2 Resource allocation; 3.3.3 Symbioses; 3.4 Heterogeneity; 3.4.1 Patchiness; 3.4.2 Response to patches; 3.4.3 Turnover; 3.5 Summary; 4: Life History and Environment; 4.1 Introduction; 4.2 Neighbourhoods; 4.3 Life history; 4.3.1 The growth forms of plants; 4.3.2 Annual plants; 4.3.3 Monocarpic perennials; 4.3.4 Herbaceous perennial plants; 4.3.5 Trees and shrubs; 4.4 Trade-off; 4.4.1 Colonization/competitive ability; 4.4.2 Root growth/shoot growth; 4.4.3 Palatability/competitive ability; 4.4.4 Seed size/seed number

4.4.5 Seed size/seedling performance4.4.6 Seed size/dormancy; 4.4.7 Dormancy/dispersal; 4.4.8 Longevity/growth rate; 4.4.9 Longevity/reproductive output; 4.4.10 Resource extraction/growth rate; 4.4.11 Defence/growth rate; 4.4.12 Growth/reproduction; 4.4.13 Male/female reproductive function; 4.4.14 Shade growth rate/shade death rate; 4.4.15 Gap/forest regeneration niche; 4.4.16 Sun leaves/shade leaves and water/light; 4.4.17 Growth rate/nutrient retention; 4.4.18 Fruit weight/seed weight; 4.4.19 Pollen quantity/pollen quality; 4.4.20 Flammability/competitive ability; 4.5 Canopy architecture 4.5.1 Modular growth

## Sommario/riassunto

Plant ecology is the scientific study of the factors influencing the distribution and abundance of plants. This benchmark text, extremely well received in its first edition, shows how pattern and structure at different levels of plant organization--from ecophysiology through population dynamics to community structure and ecosystem functionare influenced by abiotic factors (eg, climate and soils) and by biotic factors (eg, competition and herbivory). Adopting a dynamic approach, this book combines descriptive text with theoretical models and experimental data. It will be invaluable reading fo