1. Record Nr. UNINA9910455345903321

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Titolo	Biology of plagues : evidence from historical populations / / Susan Scott and Christopher J. Duncan [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2001
ISBN	1-107-12268-6 0-511-32546-0 0-511-04759-2 9786610430390 0-511-54252-6 0-521-80150-8 0-511-15651-0 1-280-43039-7 0-511-17583-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 420 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	614.4/94
Soggetti	Epidemics Epidemics - Europe - History - 16th century Epidemics - Europe - History - 17th century Black Death - Europe Plague
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 396-409) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Epidemiological concepts -- The biology of bubonic plague -- The Great Pestilence -- Case study : the plague at Penrith in 1597-98 -- Pestilence and plague in the 16th century in England -- Plagues in the 16th century in northern England : a metapopulation study -- Plagues in London in the 17th century -- Plagues in the provinces in the 17th century -- Plague at Eyam in 1665-66 : a case study -- Continental Europe during the third age of plagues : a study of large-scale metapopulation dynamics -- The plague at Marseilles, 1720-22 : an outbreak of bubonic plague? -- Conclusions.
Sommario/riassunto	The threat of unstoppable plagues, such as AIDS and Ebola, is always

with us. In Europe, the most devastating plagues were those from the Black Death pandemic in the 1300s to the Great Plague of London in 1665. For the last 100 years, it has been accepted that Yersinia pestis, the infective agent of bubonic plague, was responsible for these epidemics. This book combines modern concepts of epidemiology and molecular biology with computer-modelling. Applying these to the analysis of historical epidemics, the authors show that they were not, in fact, outbreaks of bubonic plague. Biology of Plagues offers a completely new interdisciplinary interpretation of the plagues of Europe and establishes them within a geographical, historical and demographic framework. This fascinating detective work will be of interest to readers in the social and biological sciences, and lessons learnt will underline the implications of historical plagues for modern-day epidemiology.