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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword; Preface; 1 Setting the Scene; 2 Determinants of Present-Day Biodiversity; 3 Present-Day Terrestrial Biodiversity; 4 Present-Day Marine Biodiversity; 5 Scales of Observation; 6 A Patchwork of Habitats; 7 Populations, Species, and Community Variations; 8 Life Histories and Terrestrial Ecosystem Functioning; 9 Life in the Sea; 10 Humans as Sculptors of Mediterranean Landscapes; 11 Biodiversity Downs and Ups; 12 Biodiversity and Global Change; 13 Challenges for the Future; Glossary; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	It is becoming clear that the Mediterranean region is one of the ""hottest"" of the biodiversity hotspots on the planet. There is also an increasing concern for the conservation, adaptive management, and restoration of the unique natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes that characterize this area. The region's biological and cultural heritage as well as its huge wealth of biodiversity is now at real risk. This brings a further urgency to the task of communicating detailed but readily accessible information on the Mediterranean biota, and an ecological, historical and evolutionary perspective