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Titolo	From populations to ecosystems [[electronic resource]] : theoretical foundations for a new ecological synthesis // Michel Loreau
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2010
ISBN	1-282-64499-8 9786612644993 1-4008-3416-3
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Collana	Monographs in population biology ; ; 46
Classificazione	WI 2100
Disciplina	577.8
Soggetti	Ecology Biodiversity Population biology Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Population and ecosystem approaches in ecology -- The maintenance and functional consequences of species diversity -- Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning -- Food webs, interaction webs, and ecosystem functioning -- Stability and complexity of ecosystems : new perspectives on an old debate -- Material cycling and the overall functioning of ecosystems -- Spatial dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning : metacommunities and meta-ecosystems -- Evolution of ecosystems and ecosystem properties -- Postface : toward an integrated, predictive ecology.
Sommario/riassunto	The major subdisciplines of ecology--population ecology, community ecology, ecosystem ecology, and evolutionary ecology--have diverged increasingly in recent decades. What is critically needed today is an integrated, real-world approach to ecology that reflects the interdependency of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. From Populations to Ecosystems proposes an innovative theoretical synthesis that will enable us to advance our fundamental understanding of ecological systems and help us to respond to today's emerging global ecological crisis. Michel Loreau begins by explaining how the principles

of population dynamics and ecosystem functioning can be merged. He then addresses key issues in the study of biodiversity and ecosystems, such as functional complementarity, food webs, stability and complexity, material cycling, and metacommunities. Loreau describes the most recent theoretical advances that link the properties of individual populations to the aggregate properties of communities, and the properties of functional groups or trophic levels to the functioning of whole ecosystems, placing special emphasis on the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Finally, he turns his attention to the controversial issue of the evolution of entire ecosystems and their properties, laying the theoretical foundations for a genuine evolutionary ecosystem ecology. From Populations to Ecosystems points the way to a much-needed synthesis in ecology, one that offers a fuller understanding of ecosystem processes in the natural world.
