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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The scope and goals of research on assembly rules / Paul Keddy, Evan Weiher -- The genesis and development of guild assembly rules / Barry J. Fox -- Ruling out a community assembly rule: the method of favored states / Daniel Simberloff, Lewi Stone, Tamar Dayan -- Community structure and assembly rules: confronting conceptual and statistical issues with data on desert rodents / Douglas A. Kelt, James H. Brown -- Introduced avifaunas as natural experiments in community assembly / Julie L. Lockwood, Michael P. Moulton, Karla L. Balent -- Assembly rules in plant communities / J. Bastow Wilson -- Assembly rules at different scales in plant and bird communities / Martin L. Cody -- Impact of language, history and choice of system on the study of assembly rules / Barbara D. Booth, Douglas W. Larson -- On the nature of the assembly trajectory / James A. Drake, Craig R. Zimmerman, Tom Purucker [and others] -- Assembly rules as general constraints on community composition / Evan Weiher, Paul Keddy -- A

species-based, hierarchical model of island biogeography / Mark V. Lomolino -- Interaction of physical and biological processes in the assembly of stream fish communities / Elizabeth M. Strange, Theodore C. Foin -- Functional implications of trait-environment linkages in plant communities / Sandra Diaz, Marcelo Cabido, Fernando Casanoves -- When does restoration succeed? / Julie L. Lockwood, Stuart L. Pimm -- Epilogue: From global exploration to community assembly / Paul Keddy.

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Sommario/riassunto

It is over twenty years since Jared Diamond focused attention on the possible existence of assembly rules for communities. Since then there has been a proliferation of studies trying to promote, refute or test the idea that there are sets of constraints (rules) on community formation and maintenance (assembly). This timely volume brings together carefully selected contributions which examine the question of the existence and nature of assembly rules with some rigour and in some detail, using both theoretical and empirical approaches in a variety of systems. The result is a balanced treatment which encompasses a wide range of topics within ecology including competition and coexistence, conservation and biodiversity, niche theory, and biogeography. As such it provides much to interest a broad audience of ecologists, while also making an important contribution to the study of community ecology in particular.

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