

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780066803321
Autore	Bowman D. M. J. S.
Titolo	Australian rainforests : islands of green in a land of fire // D.M.J.S. Bowman [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2000
ISBN	0-511-15411-9 0-511-58349-4 0-511-01759-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 345 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	577.34/0994
Soggetti	Rain forest ecology - Australia Fire ecology - Australia Fragmented landscapes - Australia
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. [289]-325).
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Introduction -- ; 2. What is Australian rainforest? -- ; 3. The sclerophyll problem -- ; 4. The edaphic theory I. The control of rainforest by soil phosphorus -- ; 5. The edaphic theory II. Soil types, drainage, and fertility -- ; 6. The climate theory I. Water stress -- ; 7. The climate theory II. Light and temperature -- ; 8. The fire theory I. Field evidence -- ; 9. The fire theory II. Fire, nutrient cycling, and topography -- ; 10. The fire theory III. Fire frequency, succession, and ecological drift -- ; 11. The fire theory IV. Aboriginal landscape burning -- ; 12. The fire theory V. Aridity and the evolution of flammable forests -- ; 13. The fire theory VI. Fire management and rainforest conservation -- ; 14. Summary.
Sommario/riassunto	Why do Australian rainforests occur as islands within the vast tracts of Eucalyptus? Why is fire a critical ecological factor in every Australian landscape? What were the consequences of the ice-age colonists use of fire? In this original and challenging book, David Bowman critically examines hypotheses that have been advanced to answer these questions. He demonstrates that fire is the most critical factor in controlling the distribution of rainforest throughout Australia. Furthermore, while Aboriginal people used fire to skilfully manage and

preserve habitats, he concludes that they did not significantly influence the evolution of Australia's unique flora and fauna. This book is a comprehensive overview of the diverse literature that attempts to solve the puzzle of the archipelago of rainforest habitats in Australia. It is essential reading for all ecologists, foresters, conservation biologists, and others interested in the biogeography and ecology of Australian rainforests.
