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Nota di contenuto	Preface / Juli Caujape -- 1. Islands and plants / David Bramwell -- 2. The reproductive biology of island plants Daniel J. Crawford, Gregory J. Anderson and Gabriel Bernardello -- 3. Spatial methodology in historic biogeography of islands / Paula Posadas, Jorge V. Crisci and Liliana Katinas -- 4. Origin and evolution of Hawaiian endemics: new patterns revealed by molecular studies / Sterling C. Keeley and Vicky A. Funk -- 5. Origin and evolution of Galapagos endemic vascular plants / Alan Tye and Javier Francisco-Ortega -- 6. The plants of the Caribbean Islands: a review of the biogeography, diversity and conservation of a storm-battered biodiversity hot-spot / Michael Maunder, Melissa Abdo, Rosalina Berazain, Colin Clubbe, Francisco Jimenez, Angela Leiva, Eugenio Santiago-Valentin, Brett Jestrow and Javier Francisco-Ortega -- 7. The biogeography of Madagascar palms / John Dransfield and Mijoro

Racotoarinivo -- 8. Evolution and biogeography of the flora of the Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) / Lisa M. Banfield, Kay Van Damme and Anthony G. Miller -- 9. Biogeography and conservation of the flora of New Caledonia / David Bramwell -- 10. Phytogeography and relationships of the Pitcairn Islands flora / Steve Waldren and Naomi Kingston -- 11. Chromosomes and evolution in New Zealand endemic angiosperms and gymnosperms / Brian G. Murray and Peter J. de Lange -- 12. Jesters, red queens, boomerangs and surfers: a molecular outlook to the diversity of the Canarian endemic flora / Juli Caujape-Castells -- 13. Endemism and evolution in Macaronesian and Mediterranean Limonium taxa / Maria Dolores Lledo, Per O. Karis, Manuel B. Crespo, Michael F. Fay and Mark W. Chase -- 14. Dispersal, diversity and evolution in the Macaronesian Cryptogamic floras / Alain Vanderpoorten, Benjamin Laenen, Rosalina Gabriel, Juana M. Gonzalez-Mancebo, Fred J. Rumsey and Mark A. Carine -- 15. Invasive alien species and islands / Michael Kiehn -- 16. Ecology, demography and conservation in the Galapagos Islands flora / Ole Hamann -- 17. New directions and challenges for the conservation of the flora of Madagascar / Stuart Cable -- 18. Climate change and island floras / David Bramwell -- 19. Conservation status of endemic plants on Isla de Coco, Costa Rica: applying IUCN red list criteria on a small island / Jennifer L. Trusty, Herbert C. Kesler, Jorge Rodriguez and Javier Francisco-Ortega -- 20. Botanical gardens and the conservation of island floras / Sara Oldfield -- 21. The hazardous future of island floras / Vernon H. Heywood.

Sommario/riassunto

Oceanic islands offer biologists unparalleled opportunities to study evolutionary processes and ecological phenomena. However, human activity threatens to alter or destroy many of these fragile ecosystems, with recent estimates suggesting that nearly half of the world's insular endemics are threatened with extinction. Bringing together researchers from around the world, this book illustrates how modern research methods and new concepts have challenged accepted theories and changed our understanding of island flora. Particular attention is given to the impact of molecular studies and the insights that they provide into topics such as colonisation, radiation, diversification and hybridisation. Examples are drawn from around the world, including the Hawaiian archipelago, Galapagos Islands, Madagascar and the Macronesian region. Conservation issues are also highlighted, with coverage of alien species and the role of ex situ conservation providing valuable information that will aid the formulation of management strategies and genetic rescue programmes.