1. Record Nr. UNINA9910799208503321

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Titolo	Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Herbivore Interactions on Islands / / edited by Xoaquín Moreira, Luis Abdala-Roberts
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2024
ISBN	9783031478147 3031478142
Edizione	[1st ed. 2024.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (248 pages)
Collana	Ecological Studies, Analysis and Synthesis, , 2196-971X ; ; 249
Altri autori (Persone)	Abdala-RobertsLuis
Disciplina	580
Soggetti	Botany Zoology Plant ecology Evolution (Biology) Ecology Plant Science Plant Ecology Evolutionary Biology Evolutionary Ecology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Herbivore Interactions on Islands -- Part I. Plant Defences -- Chapter 2. Spinescence and the Island Plant Defense Syndrome -- Chapter 3. The Consequences of Species Extinctions and Introductions for PlantFrugivore Interactions on Islands -- Chapter 4. Leaf Traits Linked to Herbivory in Lineages with Mediterranean-Macaronesian Distributions: Does an Island Syndrome in Plant Defence Exist? -- Chapter 5. The Loss (and Gain) of Defensive Adaptations in Island Plants and Animals: A Comparative Review -- Part II. Plant-Herbivore Interactions -- Chapter 6. Impact of Non-Native Mammalian Herbivores on Insular Plant Communities in the Canary and Balearic Islands -- Chapter 7. Potential Benefits of Mammalian Herbivores on Insular Systems: The Case of Goats on Mediterranean Islands -- Chapter 8. Ecology and Evolution of Plant-

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Sommario/riassunto

Theory and early empirical work posed that herbivore pressure should be lower on islands than on the mainland owing to lower herbivore abundance and diversity in insular systems. Consequently, plant taxa found on islands are expected to be less protected or even to have lost their defences completely. While early observational studies supported the prediction of lower herbivory and plant defences on islands, recent island-mainland comparisons have yielded mixed results, with some studies finding no differences between islands and mainlands or, surprisingly, higher herbivory and plant defences on islands. In this book, the authors aim to re-assess current theory and initiate a new generation of work on insularity effects on plant-herbivore interactions. This book aims to fill the research gaps by integrating the research that has been done to date and by compiling and summarising new research on insularity effects on plant-herbivore interactions. It provides a critical examination of the patterns in light of classical theory and identifies potential mechanisms or underlying processes. It also aims to raise new questions that will form the basis for a revised and more robust research programme. .