Invertebrates as Webmasters in Ecosystems

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Invertebrates as Webmasters in Ecosystems
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Whether in the depths of the oceans, the canopies of forests or in the soil, invertebrates are conspicuous, influential components in all of the ecosystems of the world. In one sense assemblages of invertebrates assume an organizing function and hence may be considered as 'webmasters' in these ecosystems.

The purpose of this book is to review and assess our current understanding of invertebrates in terrestrial and terrestrially dominated (i.e. lower-order stream) ecosystems. It emphasizes the centrality of the activity of invertebrates, which influence ecosystem function far out of proportion to their physical mass in a wide range of situations, particularly at the interface between land and air (litter/soil), water and land (sediments) and in tree canopies and root/soil systems. Consisting of 16 chapters by authors from the USA, Canada, Europe and Australia, the book is essential reading for ecologists and invertebrate biologists.

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