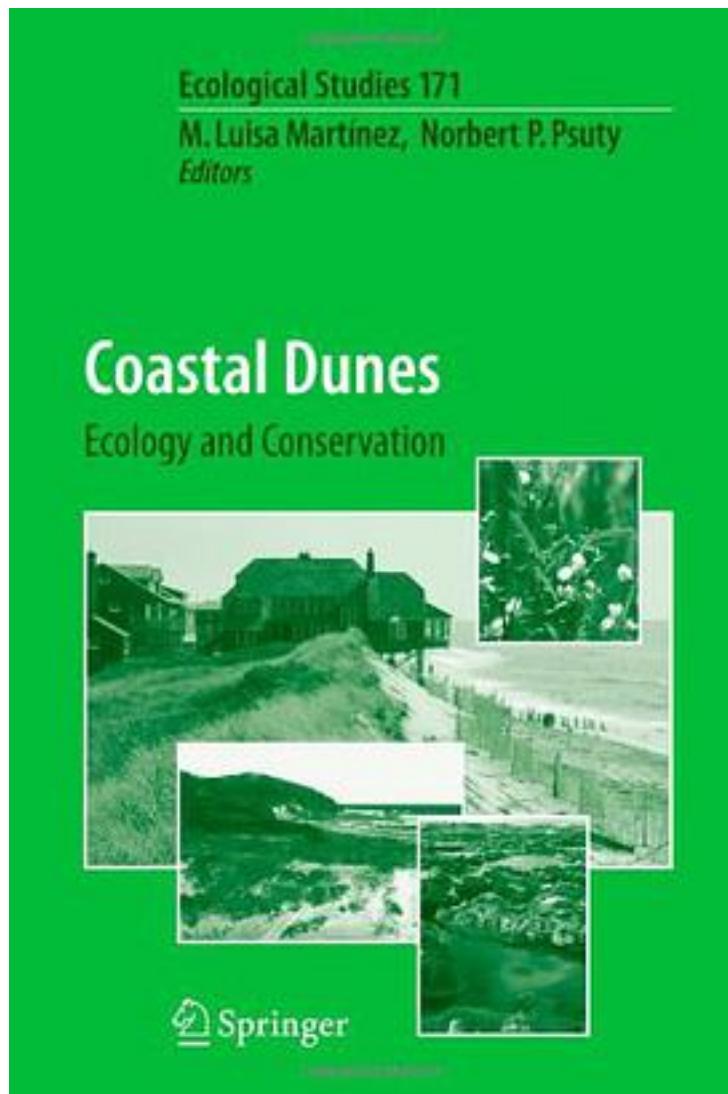


Coastal Dunes



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Coastal dunes occur in almost every latitude - from tropical to polar - and have been substantially altered by human activities. Many are already severely and irreversibly degraded. Although these ecosystems have been studied for a long time (as early as 1835), there has been a strong emphasis on the mid-latitude dune systems and a lack of attention given to the tropics where, unfortunately, much of the modern exploitation and coastal development for tourism is occurring. This book brings together coastal dune specialists from tropical and temperate latitudes, which together cover a wide set of topics, including: geomorphology, community dynamics, ecophysiology, biotic interactions and environmental problems and conservation. A major product of this book is a set of recommendations for future research, identifying relevant topics where detailed knowledge is still lacking. It also identifies management tools that will promote and maintain the rich diversity of the dune environments in the context of continuing coastal development.

作者介绍:

目录: Ecological Studies, Vol. 171.....Page 2
Coastal Dunes.....Page 4
Preface.....Page 7
Contents.....Page 9
I What Are Sand Dunes?.....Page 25
1 A Perspective on Coastal Dunes.....Page 26
2 The Coastal Foredune: A Morphological Basis for Regional Coastal Dune Development.....Page 34
3 Coastal Dunes in the Tropics and Temperate Regions: Location, Formation, Morphology and Vegetation Processes.....Page 51
II The Flora and Fauna of Sand Dunes.....Page 72
4 Temperate Zone Coastal Dunes.....Page 73
5 Vegetation Dynamics and Succession on Sand Dunes of the Eastern Coasts of Africa.....Page 86
6 Why Young Coastal Dune Slacks Sustain a High Biodiversity.....Page 104
7 Coastal Dune Forest Rehabilitation: A Case Study on Rodent and Bird Assemblages in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.....Page 121
III Living in a Stressful Environment.....Page 134
8 Burial of Plants as a Selective Force in Sand Dunes.....Page 135
9 Physiological Characteristics of Coastal Dune Pioneer Species from the Eastern Cape, South Africa, in Relation to Stress and Disturbance.....Page 152
10 Plant Functional Types in Coastal Dune Habitats.....Page 170
IV Biotic Interactions.....Page 185
11 Arbuscular Mycorrhizas in Coastal Dunes.....Page 186
12 The Role of Algal Mats on Community Succession in Dunes and Dune Slacks.....Page 201
13 Plant-Plant Interactions in Coastal Dunes.....Page 216
14 Ant-Plant Interactions: Their Seasonal Variation and Effects on Plant Fitness.....Page 232
V Environmental Problems and Conservation.....Page 251
15 Environmental Problems and Restoration Measures in Coastal Dunes in The Netherlands.....Page 252
16 The Costs of Our Coasts: Examples of Dynamic Dune Management from Western Europe.....Page 268
17 Animal Life on Coastal Dunes: From Exploitation and Prosecution to Protection and Monitoring.....Page 287

18 Coastal Vegetation as Indicators for Conservation.....Page 305
19 A Case Study of Conservation and Management of Tropical Sand Dune Systems: La Mancha-El Llano.....Page 327
20 European Coastal Dunes: Ecological Values, Threats, Opportunities and Policy Development.....Page 342
VI The Coastal Dune Paradox: Conservation vs. Exploitation?.....Page 359
21 The Fragility and Conservation of the World's Coastal Dunes: Geomorphological, Ecological, and Socioeconomic Perspectives.....Page 360
Taxonomic Index.....Page 375
Subject Index.....Page 382
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