

ation. Subsequently, a new wave of dispersal brings a segment of the new species into contact with other, similarly adapted species. Although the author does not so state, the model implies that communities of carabids are built up by random accumulation of species with similar tolerances for the abiotic factors that are prevalent in their particular environment.

Thiele is unable to fit his model to a group of carabids because he does not make use of other powerful explanatory models provided by phylogenetic analysis, with its emphasis on identification of sister groups and reconstructions of hypothetical ancestral character combinations. Without such reconstructions, one cannot postulate directions of change or formulate a very satisfactory notion of the pathways of evolution.

Another model that Thiele could have used to good advantage is the taxon cycle, as applied by P. J. Darlington, Jr., to the evolution of carabids and their communities. In essence the model calls for the origin of dominant, freely dispersing species in tropical lowlands, with spread from these areas made possible by local adaptations. Later, other dominant groups arise in the same centers and follow and displace the surviving stocks of the earlier waves, which either become extinct or withdraw from lowlands to other habitats. This model is consistent with the general orderliness seen in patterns of diversity of carabid communities and associated ecological and morphological divergence. In not discussing the model—perhaps because it postulates competition as one of the main driving forces, or perhaps because it seems too speculative—Thiele forgoes the use of a set of principles with the potential to unify his ecological data.

Another difficulty is that in his enthusiasm for what has been accomplished, Thiele has not emphasized sufficiently how restricted a base of data underlies our conceptions of environmental relationships of Carabidae. For example, knowledge of responses of carabids to chemicals is fragmentary, and the adaptive significance of slight differences in body form between closely related but ecologically different carabid species is not understood. By not accentuating such deficiencies the author overlooks some promising questions for further research. For example, the ecological significance of body size classes in different communities, environmental partitioning, and r and K selection are not mentioned, and the possibility of sympatric speciation by differentiation in response to abiotic factors is not considered.

Carabids would be excellent for study of such matters.

In short, the book would be of more value to biologists in general if more serious consideration had been given to recently developed ecological-evolutionary theory, and it would be of more use to carabid specialists if the author had pointed out some directions for future research.

Overall, however, the book is a fine synthesis of current knowledge of homeostatic aspects of ecological relationships of carabids, and it is a fitting tribute to the man to whom it is dedicated: Carl H. Lindroth, who was instrumental in formulating the approaches and techniques that are commonly used in ecological research on these fine beetles. The material is well organized and the text is easily readable, thanks to the clarity of thought and expression of the author and to the skill of an able translator.

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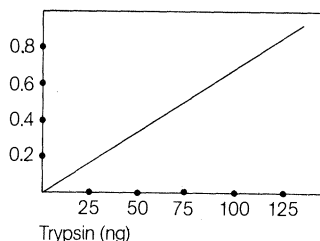
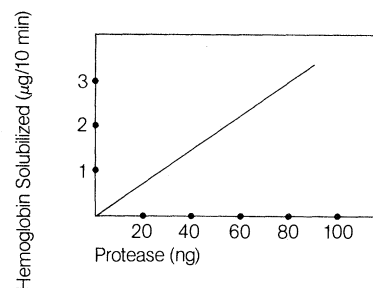
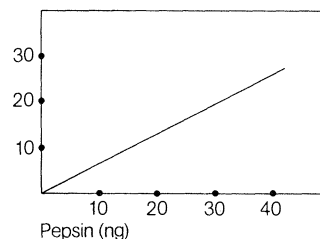
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