Population Regulation and Dynamics. M. P. HASSELL and R. M. MAY, Eds. Royal Society, London, 1990. viii, 182 pp., illus. £37.50. Reprinted from Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, series B, vol. 330. From a meeting, London, May 1990.

"These proceedings," writes T. R. E. Southwood in his introduction, "bring together two topics of long-standing interest to ecologists: the regulation of individual species and the relative abundance of different species in a community." The volume contains 14 papers in all, beginning with reviews of the population dynamics of plants by Crawley and of terrestrial animals by Hanski. In two other general papers Chesson brings geometric analysis to bear on populations in temporally variable environments and Kareiva discusses the interaction of theory and data in studies concerned with spatially complex environments. Issues of chaos in population dynamics are considered in papers by Godfray and Blyth and by Sugihara et al., the former concerned with the application of the new techniques of attractor reconstruction and estimation of the correlation dimension to the dynamics of multispecies communities and the latter with a method for distinguishing error from chaos in ecological time series, taking measles epidemics as a case study. With respect to specific categories of organisms, there are papers on population regulation ("myth or mirage?") in fish by Shepherd and Cushing and in gastrointestinal helminths by Quinnell et al., on host-parasitoid interactions by Hassell and Pacala, and on density dependence in neotropical trees by Hubbell et al. In the one paper concerned explicitly with genetic diversity Travis discusses its maintenance by ecological forces, and in a paleontological paper Valentine expounds the fossil record as "a sampler of life's diversity." May concludes the volume with a consideration of how many species exist and how that question might be answered. Each paper is preceded by an abstract, and some include comments by participants in the meeting at which they were originally delivered. The volume contains no index and uses an awkward system of double pagination not clearly indicated in the table of contents.-K.L.

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