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Wildfires kill many animals, but are *populations* of animals affected? How do animals survive the passage of fire? Why do some tree species survive and others die in a fire? Do frequent fires cause changes in plant community composition? How important is long-distance seed dispersal in vegetation recovery after fire? How does fire affect plant–herbivore interactions and predator–prey interactions? What are the effects of frequently applied, out of season fires for land management?

Answering questions such as these requires an understanding of the ecological effects of fire. Aimed at senior undergraduate students, researchers, foresters and other land managers, Professor Whelan's book examines the changes wrought by fires with reference to general ecological theory. The impacts of fires on individual organisms, populations and communities are examined separately, and emphasis is placed on the importance of fire regime. Each chapter includes a listing of 'outstanding questions' that identify gaps in current knowledge. The book finishes by summarizing the major aspects of ecology that are of particular relevance to management of fires – both protection against wildfires and deliberate use of fire.

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ROBERT J. WHELAN

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong, Australia



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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1995

Reprinted 1997

Typeset in 11/13 Monotype Bembo

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Whelan, Robert J.

The ecology of fire / Robert J. Whelan.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in ecology)

ISBN 0 521 32872 1 (hardback). – ISBN 0 521 33814 X (pbk.)

1. Fire ecology. I. Series.

QH545.F5W48 1995

574.5'264—dc20 94-34787 CIP

ISBN 0 521 32872 1 hardback

ISBN 0 521 33814 X paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2002

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Acknowledgements

Writing a book such as this provides an opportunity for reflection about the influences on one's research career, and an opportunity to thank those who have helped along the way. Pyrophilia has itself been a strong influence on my decisions to do research on and write about fire ecology – but the inquisitiveness to ask questions was doubtless put there long ago by my family, especially my father, whose teaching embodied the message in this quotation: *He who learns from one occupied in learning, drinks from a running stream. He who learns from one who has learned all he is to teach, drinks 'the green mantle of the stagnant pool'* [A. J. Scott, 1852].

I have been fortunate that my inquisitiveness about the workings of the natural world, especially under the influence of fire, was stimulated and honed by people who were themselves occupied in learning, particularly Don Potts, Bert Main and John Harper.

Many others also fanned my interest in linking fire and ecology, either directly or indirectly, knowingly or unknowingly – Allan Burbridge, Archie Carr, Brian Clay, Norm Christensen, Jack Ewel, Kathy Ewel, Peter Feinsinger, Malcolm Gill, Yan Linhart, Ron Myers, Peter Myerscough, Ian Noble, Bill Platt, Jack Putz, Tony Underwood, John Zasada, and Paul Zedler. Several students have increased my knowledge of fires by their research work: Jack Baker, Stan Bellgard, Ruth Ballardie, Nick de Jong, Will Edwards, Jamie Erskine, Alison Hunt, Shigeto Miyamoto, Sabine von der Burg and Pat Tap.

This book started out as a joint effort – Dr Ros Muston shared the designing of the text, the development of ideas and provided constructive criticism. Many of the approaches and ideas presented here were undoubtedly hatched in conversations with her.

John Harper's advice about embarking on a book was: 'write it *for* someone – a real person who represents the book's readership.' In a way, therefore, this book is for Alison Hunt – representing students of ecology moving from undergraduate studies to postgraduate work, and thence to research and/or management.

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x · Acknowledgements

Many people have helped with pieces of this work as it took shape, and contributed their time, criticisms, ideas and other assistance – I am most grateful for this support – Tony Auld, Ross Bradstock, Dave Bowman, Tony Hulbert, Richard and Pat Jordan, Richard Kiltie, Paul Lefebvre, Bert and Barbara Main, Peter Myerscough, Paul Zedler. John Wiens and an anonymous reviewer read the whole manuscript and made valuable suggestions and identified countless errors. The final manuscript, figures and tables may never have been completed without the organization and assistance provided by Darien Arthur.

I acknowledge the following for financial support of my own research on fire ecology and other support in relation to the writing of this book – University of Western Australia Postgraduate Studentship, Archie Carr Postdoctoral Fellowship (University of Florida), sabbatical leave support (University of Wollongong, Fulbright Senior Award, Australian Research Council. In addition library, research and other facilities were provided by: the University of Western Australia, University of Wollongong, University of Florida, San Diego State University, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

Two groups of people have put up with the frustrations of being associated with me as an author. Martin Waters and especially Alan Crowden at CUP have willingly provided support, information, leniency and chiding. Last but not least, Anna and Megan provided support, an anchor, welcome distraction, encouragement and a reminder that there is more to life.