

BOOK REVIEWS

FOREST BIOMASS

T. Satoo

Edited by H. A. I. Madgwick

Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague. 1982. 152 pages. ISBN 90 247 2710 3.

In revising Professor Satoo's book, Dr Madgwick preserves and expands on original attempts by Japanese scientists to systematise forest biomass data. The six chapters of the book begin with definitions of primary production and forest biomass and proceed with their estimation. The results of biomass studies, primarily in Japan, are then presented in the light of physical principles which assist to systematise the wealth of data. The book continues with a chapter on growth allocation and concludes with a discussion of factors affecting production rates.

My reaction to the book is nicely summarised by the authors who, while demonstrating many useful inter-relationships between biomass components and various forest attributes, conclude that research effort should go beyond collecting biomass data and provide estimates of parameters known to be associated with productivity.

Researchers of forest biomass will find this book useful with its up-to-date treatment of commonly used prediction equations. Furthermore, modellers will find the book a useful source of data, particularly to establish limits on growth. However, the authors sidestep the issues of growth processes and controls, and appeal instead to growth analysis methods as a means to functionalise productivity.

P. N. Beets

VEGETATION MAP OF TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

by I. A. E. Atkinson

New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington. 1981. 1 map + notes (27 pages). \$4.50.

The publication of the Vegetation Map of Tongariro National Park will be welcomed by those who already have a great love for the native vegetation and mountains and it will open the way for a new understanding in others. The young, especially, will find in the vegetation map and informative text a greater understanding and hence a greater pleasure in exploring the Tongariro National Park.

The booklet of notes gives sufficient information to allow visitors a better appreciation of the volcanic upheavals of the past and, arising from this, the legacy of an altered vegetational structure as now exists in many areas of the park. It also provides coverage of the other aspects that people like to know about – such as what