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to improved methods of environmental risk assessment. To what extent will it be possible to adopt a more mechanistic approach to risk assessment using biomarker assays or comprehensive simulations of animal populations in realistically modelled landscapes? How feasible is it to use results from tests whose endpoints are not toxicity data for laboratory species but changes in populations, communities, or ecosystems? Protocols for ecotoxicity testing are currently subject to much debate and touch not only on scientific issues but on ethical, economic, and political ones as well. In recent years, the suffering of laboratory animals caused by toxicity testing has become an important issue in Western countries.

In producing this fourth edition the authors gratefully acknowledge the feedback, help, and advice from many users of the book, especially Dr. Peter Hodson, Dr. Russ McClain, Dr. Erik Muller, Dr. Marinus L. Otte, Dr. William E. Robinson, and Dr. Denise M. Woodward.

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