

Contents

Preface *xiii*

List of Contributors *xv*

1	What Is the Arctic?	1
	<i>Kjell Danell</i>	
1.1	Setting the Scene	1
1.2	In Which Ways Is the Arctic Different?	2
1.3	How Was the Arctic Discovered?	3
1.4	How Large Is the Arctic?	4
1.5	What Is in the Arctic?	4
1.5.1	Arctic Haze and Ice Fog	4
1.5.2	Aurora Borealis	5
1.6	Climate and Weather	5
1.7	Ice and Snow	6
1.8	Permafrost, Polygons, Pingos, and Palsas	6
1.9	Animals, Plants, and Fungi	7
1.10	Arctic Ecosystems	9
1.10.1	Terrestrial Ecosystems	10
1.10.2	Freshwater Ecosystems	12
1.10.3	Marine Ecosystems	14
1.10.4	Humans	15
1.11	Which Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services does the Arctic Offer?	17
1.12	Biotic Changes in the Arctic	19
	References	22
2	Arctic Ecology – A Paleoenvironmental Perspective	23
	<i>Michael Pisaric and John P. Smol</i>	
2.1	Introduction	23
2.2	The Distant Past	25
2.2.1	Bones, DNA, and Megafauna	26
2.2.2	Beringian Biota	27

- 2.2.3 Ancient DNA 29
- 2.3 Rings and Things: Examining Paleoenvironmental and Paleoclimatic Change Using Dendrochronology 30
 - 2.3.1 Dendrochronology in Action: Examples from the Field 32
- 2.4 Lake Sediments: Continuous Archives of Environmental Change 33
- 2.5 Paleolimnology and Arctic Climate Change 37
 - 2.5.1 Subfossil Pollen, Stomata, and Macrofossils for Tracking Vegetation Change 38
 - 2.5.2 Charcoal and Past Wildfires 39
 - 2.5.3 Using Past Assemblage Changes in Lake Biota to Reconstruct Past Climatic Trends 39
 - 2.5.4 Using Paleolimnology to Study the Source and Fate of Contaminants 43
 - 2.5.5 Linking Paleolimnology and Archeology: Tracking the Limnological Effects of Early Peoples in the Arctic 48
- 2.6 Concluding Remarks 49
- References 50

- 3 Climate Change in the Arctic 57**
Edward Hanna, Joseph E. Nolan, James E. Overland, and Richard J. Hall
 - 3.1 Introduction to Arctic Climates – Datasets Available for Analyzing Climate Change 57
 - 3.2 Atmospheric Aspects of Arctic Climate Change: Arctic Amplification and Global Warming, Changes in Air Temperature and Precipitation, and Changes in Atmospheric Circulation 59
 - 3.3 Oceanic Aspects of Arctic Climate Change, Including Surface and Deep Ocean Circulation Changes 61
 - 3.4 Climate Change Impacts on Arctic Sea Ice and Greenland Ice Sheet – The Unprecedented Recent Decline in Late Summer Sea-Ice Cover and Record Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Melt and Mass Loss 65
 - 3.5 Feedbacks in the Arctic Climate System and Global Impacts – the Ice/Albedo Feedback and Ice Insulation Feedbacks – the “Warm Arctic, Cold Continents” Hypothesis 71
 - 3.6 Concluding Remarks 73
 - References 75

- 4 Arctic Permafrost and Ecosystem Functioning 81**
Torben R. Christensen
 - 4.1 Permafrost and Ecosystems in the Arctic 81
 - 4.2 Permafrost Shapes the Landscape 83
 - 4.2.1 Permafrost Specific Landforms and Their Importance for Ecosystems 83
 - 4.2.2 Permafrost Specific Landforms and Effects of a Changing Climate 86
 - 4.3 The Biology of Permafrost 87
 - 4.3.1 Microbes 87

4.3.2	Vegetation	88
4.4	Ecosystem Function – Carbon Cycling in Permafrost Environments	91
4.4.1	General Carbon Cycling	91
4.4.2	Methane Emissions	92
4.5	Concluding Remarks	94
	References	95
5	Arctic Tundra	103
	<i>John Hobbie, Gaius Shaver, Toke Thomas Høye, and Joseph Bowden</i>	
5.1	Distribution and Description of Arctic Tundra	103
5.2	Tundra Organisms: A Typical Food Web	105
5.3	Flora and Fauna: Diversity and Communities	106
5.4	Primary Production and Organic Matter Stocks in the Low and High Arctic	110
5.5	Primary Production and Organic Matter Stocks	112
5.6	Adaptations to the Arctic Tundra	112
5.6.1	Plant Adaptations	112
5.6.2	Microbial Activity and Soil Carbon and Nitrogen	115
5.6.3	Invertebrates: Diversity, Freeze-Tolerance, and Freeze-Avoidance	116
5.6.4	Vertebrates of the Tundra: Wintertime Survival Strategies	117
5.7	Reproductive Strategies	118
5.8	Populations and Communities of the Tundra	120
5.8.1	Diversity and Interactions: The Case of Beringia	120
5.8.2	Development of Arctic Tundra Food Webs: Complexity, Insects	121
5.8.3	Belowground Arctic Food Web: Bacteria, Mycorrhizal Fungi, Nitrogen, and Carbon Cycling	122
5.9	Tundra Ecosystem Analysis	123
5.9.1	Why Nutrient Limitation?	123
5.9.2	Nitrogen Budget: Pools of Nitrogen, Rates of Transport, and Transformations	124
5.9.3	Carbon Budget: Pools, Gross Photosynthesis and Respiration, Accumulation and Feedbacks	126
5.9.4	Insights from Manipulation Experiments: Control of Net Primary Production and Herbivory by Nutrients, Light, and Heat	126
5.10	Expected Future Changes and Responses in Arctic Tundra	128
5.10.1	Effects of Increased Shrubs	128
5.10.2	Pest Outbreaks, Changes in Phenology and Species Interactions	129
	References	130
6	Ecology of Arctic Glaciers	133
	<i>Alexandre M. Anesio and Johanna Laybourn-Parry</i>	
6.1	Introduction	133
6.2	The Biodiversity and Food Webs of Glacial Habitats	136
6.2.1	Ice Shelves	136

- 6.2.2 Supraglacial or Cryolakes 138
- 6.2.3 Cryoconite Material, Cryoconite Holes, and Wet Ice Surfaces 139
- 6.2.4 Snow on the Surface of Ice 141
- 6.2.5 Life Within Ice 141
- 6.2.6 Life in Subglacial Environments 143
- 6.3 Quantification of Microbial Processes in Glaciers and Export of Material to Adjacent Ecosystems 144
- 6.3.1 Supraglacial Habitats: Ice Shelf Lakes, Ponds, Cryoconites 144
- 6.3.2 Subglacial Habitats 149
- 6.4 Anthropogenic Impacts 151
- References 152

- 7 Ecology of Arctic Lakes and Ponds 159**
Erik Jeppesen, Kirsten S. Christoffersen, Milla Rautio, and Torben L. Lauridsen
- 7.1 Introduction 159
- 7.2 Physical and Chemical Characteristics of Arctic Lakes and Ponds 160
- 7.3 Biological Communities and Production 162
- 7.3.1 Phytoplankton and Phytobenthos 162
- 7.3.2 Macrophytes 164
- 7.3.3 Microbial Loop 165
- 7.3.4 Zooplankton and Zoobenthos 165
- 7.3.5 Fish 168
- 7.3.6 Food Webs 169
- 7.4 Global Climate Change and Arctic Lakes 171
- References 174

- 8 Ecology of Arctic Streams and Rivers 181**
Alexander D. Huryn
- 8.1 Introduction 181
- 8.1.1 What Is an Arctic River? 181
- 8.2 A Primer on Stream Ecology: General and Arctic Perspectives 183
- 8.2.1 The Longitudinal Dimension 184
- 8.2.2 The Vertical Dimension 202
- 8.2.3 The Lateral Dimension 207
- 8.3 Concluding Remarks 209
- References 211

- 9 Ecology of Arctic Pelagic Communities 219**
Malin Daase, Jørgen Berge, Janne E. Søreide, and Stig Falk-Petersen
- 9.1 Introduction 219
- 9.2 The Arctic Marine Highways: The Transpolar Drift and the Interconnected Current Systems 220
- 9.3 Members and Key Players of Arctic Pelagic Communities 224

- 9.3.1 At the Base – Primary Producers and Microbial Communities 224
- 9.3.2 In the Middle – Resident Consumers and Life Strategies of Arctic Zooplankton 229
- 9.3.3 At the Top – Pelagic Predators 239
- 9.4 A Lipid-Driven Food Chain 241
- 9.5 Effects of Climate Change 242
 - 9.5.1 Timing 243
 - 9.5.2 Changes in Species Distribution 243
- References 246

- 10 Ecology of Arctic Sea Ice 261**
C. J. Mundy and Klaus M. Meiners
- 10.1 Introduction to Sea Ice 261
- 10.2 Types of Habitats 262
- 10.3 Food Webs and Carbon Flow 264
- 10.4 Physical Environment 268
- 10.5 Colonization of Sea Ice and Winter Survival 270
- 10.6 Adaptations to and Relationships with Environmental Conditions 272
 - 10.6.1 Temperature and Salinity 272
 - 10.6.2 Space and Permeability 275
 - 10.6.3 Light 276
- 10.7 Climate Change and the Ice-Associated Ecosystem 278
- References 279

- 11 Ecology of Arctic Shallow Subtidal and Intertidal Benthos 289**
Paul E. Renaud, Jan Marcin Węstawski, and Kathleen Conlan
- 11.1 Introduction 289
- 11.2 The Physical Environment 290
 - 11.2.1 Temperature 290
 - 11.2.2 Light 290
 - 11.2.3 Waves 291
 - 11.2.4 Ice Cover 291
 - 11.2.5 Freshwater Discharge and Salinity 293
- 11.3 Biomes 294
 - 11.3.1 Origins and Distribution of Sediments 294
 - 11.3.2 Soft-Sediment Communities 295
 - 11.3.3 Hard Substrate 297
 - 11.3.4 Vegetated Substrate 300
- 11.4 Disturbance Regimes and Succession 302
 - 11.4.1 Ice Scour 302
 - 11.4.2 Strudel Scour 304
 - 11.4.3 Natural Gas Seepage and Petroleum Extraction 305
 - 11.4.4 Large-Mammal Feeding Pits 305

- 11.4.5 Recolonization of Arctic Benthos 306
- 11.4.6 Human Impacts 307
- 11.5 Trophic Interactions 308
- 11.5.1 Feeding Strategies in Arctic Shallow Benthos 308
- 11.5.2 Food Sources for Benthic Fauna 309
- 11.5.3 Benthos as a Food for Top Predators in the Arctic 310
- 11.5.4 Carbon and Nutrient Cycling 314
- 11.6 Reproduction in Coastal Benthos 315
- 11.7 Effects of Global Climate Change on Shallow Arctic Benthos 316
- 11.7.1 Reduced Ice Cover 319
- 11.7.2 Documented Effects on Natural Systems in the Intertidal Zone 319
- 11.7.3 Coastal Erosion 319
- References 320

12 Ecology of Arctic Shelf and Deep Ocean Benthos 325

Monika Kędra and Jacqueline M. Grebmeier

- 12.1 Introduction 325
- 12.2 The Physical Environment 326
- 12.2.1 Light 327
- 12.2.2 Temperature 327
- 12.2.3 Sea Ice 328
- 12.2.4 Sediment Characteristics 328
- 12.3 Biodiversity, Community Structure, and Functioning of Shelf and Deep Sea Benthos 330
- 12.3.1 Benthic Definitions 330
- 12.3.2 Brief Overview of Major Taxa in Benthic Communities 331
- 12.3.3 Biodiversity 335
- 12.3.4 Functional Diversity 337
- 12.3.5 Arctic Commercial Benthic Species 338
- 12.4 Productivity and Food Webs of Shelf and Deep Sea Benthos 339
- 12.4.1 Primary Production and Food Sources 339
- 12.4.2 Pelagic–Benthic Coupling 341
- 12.4.3 Benthic Community Structure and Food Webs 343
- 12.4.4 Benthic Communities as a Food Source for Benthic-Feeding Upper Trophic Levels 346
- 12.5 Impact of Global Climate Change on Shelf and Deep Sea Benthic Communities 348
- References 349

13 Fat, Furry, Flexible, and Functionally Important: Characteristics of Mammals Living in the Arctic 357

Niels M. Schmidt, Olivier Gilg, Jon Aars, and Rolf A. Ims

- 13.1 Introduction 357
- 13.2 The Mammal Assemblage in the Arctic Today 358

- 13.2.1 Terrestrial Mammals 358
- 13.2.2 Herbivores 358
- 13.2.3 Predators 359
- 13.2.4 Marine Mammals 360
- 13.3 Arctic Mammals and Adaptations to Life in the Arctic 366
 - 13.3.1 Fur, Fat and Extremities 367
 - 13.3.2 Behavioral Adaptations to Life in the Arctic 368
- 13.4 The Role of Mammals in Arctic Ecosystems 369
 - 13.4.1 Removal of Plant Material by Terrestrial Herbivores 371
 - 13.4.2 Transport of Nutrients and Seeds by Arctic Mammals 372
 - 13.4.3 Mammal Predator–Prey Dynamics 374
- 13.5 The Future for Arctic Mammals in a Changing Climate 374
- 13.6 Concluding Remarks 377
 - References 377

- 14 Ecology of Arctic Birds 385**
Anthony D. Fox
 - 14.1 Introduction: The Bird Species and Their Feeding Ecology 385
 - 14.2 Traveling to Breed 386
 - 14.3 Long Distance Migrations 388
 - 14.4 Reproduction 389
 - 14.5 Survival 394
 - 14.6 Population Change 396
 - 14.7 Climate Change 397
 - 14.8 Endangered Species 399
 - 14.9 Concluding Remarks 402
 - References 403

- 15 Arctic Ecology, Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Governance 409**
Mark Nuttall
 - 15.1 Introduction 409
 - 15.2 The Impacts of Social and Environmental Change 410
 - 15.3 Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wildlife Management 413
 - 15.4 Arctic Ecology and Community-Based Monitoring 415
 - 15.5 Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Policy: The Case of the Inuit Circumpolar Council 418
 - 15.6 Concluding Remarks 419
 - References 420

Index 423