
Contents

Preface	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Controls on terrestrial ecosystem processes: an historical perspective	3
1.2 Species and biotic interactions as ecosystem drivers	5
1.3 Aboveground–belowground interactions as drivers of ecosystem processes	8
1.4 Aboveground–belowground interactions and global change	10
1.5 Emerging issues and trends	12
2 Biotic interactions in soil as drivers of ecosystem properties	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Influence of decomposers on aboveground communities and ecosystem processes	17
2.2.1 Free-living soil microbes, nutrient availability, and plant growth	17
2.2.2 Trophic interactions in soil, nutrient availability, and plant growth	23
2.2.3 Functional consequences of trophic cascades in the soil food web	26
2.2.4 Bacterial-based and fungal-based energy channels and nutrient cycling	28
2.3 Influence of root-associated organisms on plant communities and ecosystem processes	32
2.3.1 Microbial symbionts and plant community dynamics	32
2.3.2 Belowground pathogens, herbivores, and plant community dynamics	38
2.4 Soil ecosystem engineers and plant community dynamics	40
2.5 Soil biotic interactions, carbon dynamics, and global change	45
2.5.1 Soil biotic interactions and ecosystem carbon exchange	46
2.5.2 Contribution of soil biotic interactions to climate change via carbon-cycle feedbacks	52
2.5.3 Multiple global change drivers and soil biotic interactions	57
2.6 Conclusions	59

3	Plant community influences on the soil community and plant–soil feedbacks	62
3.1	Introduction	62
3.2	How plants affect the belowground subsystem	63
3.2.1	Differential effects of different plant species	63
3.2.2	Effects of within-species variation	68
3.2.3	Spatial and temporal variability	70
3.2.4	Multiple species effects	72
3.3	Overriding effects of plant traits	75
3.3.1	Contrasting plant species and trait axes	75
3.3.2	Trait dominance, trait dissimilarity, and multiple species effects	81
3.3.3	Ecosystem stoichiometry	84
3.4	Plant–soil feedbacks	85
3.5	Succession and disturbance	90
3.5.1	The build-up phase of succession	91
3.5.2	Ecosystem retrogression	93
3.5.3	Succession and plant–soil feedbacks	97
3.6	Indirect belowground effects of global change via vegetation	99
3.6.1	Indirect belowground effects of climate change	99
3.6.2	Indirect belowground effects of nitrogen deposition	107
3.7	Conclusions	110
4	Ecosystem-level significance of aboveground consumers	113
4.1	Introduction	113
4.2	Herbivore-mediated effects on plant–soil feedbacks and ecosystem processes	114
4.2.1	Positive effects of herbivores on belowground properties and ecosystem functioning	116
4.2.2	Negative effects of herbivores on belowground properties and ecosystem functioning	123
4.2.3	Landscape-scale herbivore effects and multiple stable states	130
4.3	The role of plant traits in regulating herbivore impacts	134
4.4	Aboveground trophic cascades and consequences for belowground properties	137
4.5	Spatial movement of resources by consumer organisms	141
4.5.1	Resource transfers across land	142
4.5.2	Resource transfers from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems	147
4.6	Aboveground consumers, carbon dynamics, and global change	152
4.7	Conclusions	161

5	Aboveground and belowground consequences of species losses and gains	165
5.1	Introduction	165
5.2	Species losses through extinction and aboveground–belowground linkages	166
5.2.1	The diversity-function issue from an aboveground–belowground perspective	166
5.2.2	Removal experiments for studying effects of species losses	172
5.2.3	Effects of species losses in real ecosystems	180
5.3	Species gains through invasion and aboveground–belowground linkages	183
5.3.1	Invasions by plants	183
5.3.2	Belowground invaders	190
5.3.3	Invasions by aboveground consumers	195
5.4	Consequences of global change through causing species gains and losses	201
5.5	Conclusions	208
6	Underlying themes and ways forward	211
6.1	Introduction	211
6.2	Biotic interactions, feedbacks, and ecosystem processes	212
6.2.1	Linkages and feedbacks between the aboveground and belowground subsystems	212
6.2.2	Organism traits as ecological drivers	214
6.3	Drivers of spatial and temporal variability	217
6.3.1	Drivers of variation over time	217
6.3.2	Drivers of variation over space	219
6.3.3	Differences across ecosystems	221
6.3.4	Global-scale contrasts	222
6.4	Global change phenomena	224
	References	227
	Index	289