

3.8 ECOLOGICAL SUCCESSION

- In 1916, Frederic Clements published a descriptive theory of succession and advanced it as a general ecological concept.
- His theory of succession had a powerful influence on ecological thought. Clements' concept is usually termed classical ecological theory.
- According to Clements, succession is a process involving several phases:

Nudation:

Succession begins with the development of a bare site, called Nudation (disturbance).

Migration: It refers to arrival of propagules.

Ecesis: It involves establishment and initial growth of vegetation.

Competition:

As vegetation became well established, grew, and spread, various species began to compete for space, light and nutrients. This phase is called competition.

Reaction:

During this phase autogenic changes affect the habitat resulting in replacement of one plant community by another.

Stabilization: Reaction phase leads to development of a climax community.

