

Book Review

NATO ASI Series G: Ecological Sciences Vol. 16, Effects of Atmospheric Pollutants on Forests, Wetlands and Agricultural Ecosystems. Edited by T. C. Hutchinson & K. M. Meema. Springer-Verlag, Berlin. 1987. Pp. 652. Price: DM 274.00.

This NATO workshop was held in Toronto in May 1985. The long delay before publication runs counter to the stated aim of producing a 'state of the art' report, but there is some interesting material. Prinz *et al.* start, with a brief history of how 'neuartige Waldschäden' came to notice. They refer to official attitudes similar to those of the Inquisition, which reminded me of Brecht's 'Galileo' (although I trust matters were never that bad!), and conclude by disagreeing with one of Ulrich's statements. Matzner & Ulrich give the second chapter, on forest decline in northwest Germany, and the next five chapters describe aspects of forest damage in parts of Europe and North America. Succeeding sections consider effects of acid deposition on plants, other stresses such as ozone and ethylene, the use of ringwidths in trees as a historical record of pollutant impact, the consequences of acidifying soils, effects on mosses and lichens, agricultural responses and wetlands. This last section on wetlands is possibly the most novel part of the whole book.

The book ends with chapters on amounts of sulphur emitted by ecosystems, and dose/response relationships for plant damage by acid deposition, and with four group reports, on forest decline, forest soils, effects on crops, and wetlands.

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