

Reviews

A new ecological 'bible' for the 21st century

World-renowned ecologist Charles Krebs has influenced thousands of ecologists and students over the past three decades through his books *Ecology: The Experimental Analysis of Distribution and Abundance* and *Ecological Methods*, which have become standard texts for tertiary biology and ecology courses.

Krebs, a pioneer in experimental ecology, has spent almost 50 years studying changes in mammal populations in Canada and, more recently, Australia. His research contributions include more than 170 published papers.

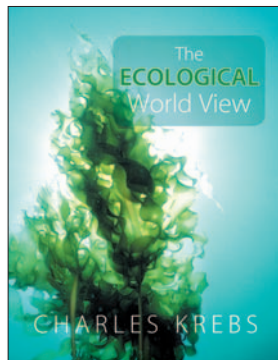
As a 'semi-retired' professor with the University of British Columbia, Krebs spends six months of each year as a visiting fellow at CSIRO

Sustainable Ecosystems in Canberra, where he works with the rodent ecology group studying the control of house mouse outbreaks in south-eastern Australia and rice-field rats in South-East Asia.

Krebs believes the science of ecology is central to solving two of the world's most serious problems: conservation of endangered species and the impact of climate change on ecosystems, both of which he says are more serious in the long run than terrorism.

Krebs' forthcoming 592-page book – *The Ecological World View* – is set to become a new 'bible' for ecology students.

The book is an extremely readable introduction to the general principles of ecology. Topics include geographic and



The Ecological World View
Charles Krebs

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behavioural ecology; predation, competition, infection and

parasitism; mutualism and commensalism; biodiversity; disturbance ecology; nutrient recycling; landscape ecology; sustainable fishing; pest control; and conservation of endangered species and ecosystems.

Published by CSIRO Publishing, the book includes illuminating diagrams and tables, and plenty of photos to vividly illustrate ecological case studies from around the globe, including many from Australia.

In his preface, Krebs writes, 'It is useful to learn something about ecology if you wish to understand the problems humans face in sustaining our environment and protecting the species with which we share the Earth.' This book is an excellent starting point.

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