

## PREFACE

Ecology is a scientific term firstly used by Haeckel 1866 referring to one of the Biological Sciences which explains the relationships between the living organisms and their surroundings . the environment . It is an integrated science. Hence, the Ecologist is an integrator as well as observatory worker . He brings together data from many sources : climatology, Soil Science , Hydrology , Geology , Biological Sciences etc . in order to explain the behaviour of an organism (Autecology) or population (Synecology) in their environments where they live and , hopefully , to describe how and why they live there .

Ecology can be considered as the Key Science that helps , greatly , to find the scientific solutions for the environmental problems e . g . aridity , desertification , pollution etc . and , thus , it can play an important role in the environmental development of the countries . This may explain the increasing interests of students to study ecology .

Although many books dealing with ecology have been published all over the world , yet very few are intended to the understandings of the Arab Students . Even those overlooked the major problems of the Arab world namely : Aridity and Desertification . Such situation , encouraged the author to write this book as an attempt to introduce Plant Ecology to the Arab Students in a simple manner . The first part of the book comprises the basic knowledges of the differnt subjects of Plant Ecology with special reference to Aridity . The major vegetation types of Egypt and their floristic composition have been presented in the second part of the book as an example of the plant life of the arid lands .

With my bst wishes to our students .

**The Author**

M . A . Zahran