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GENES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Edited by R. Hails, J. Beringer & H. C. J. Godfray

Molecular, genetic and modelling techniques are central to ecology, providing valuable new tools for addressing complex environmental questions. The Natural Environmental research Council launched a research initiative to develop a community of interdisciplinary scientists, combining the fields of molecular biology and ecology. The thematic programme is called EDGE (Ecological Dynamics and Genes). The central focus of this thematic programme is to solve ecological questions using techniques developed primarily in the discipline of molecular biology. This promises to be one of the expanding and exciting avenues of future ecological research.

Genes in the Environment is a special symposium volume which will represent the final synthesis of this three year initiative. The aim of the publication in particular is to place the results of EDGE into a general ecological context. Keynote speakers will provide overviews of relevant areas, reviewing the status of the subject before the application of molecular techniques, and highlighting those ecological questions which would most benefit from a molecular approach. The EDGE speakers will illustrate how molecular techniques have moved us forward - using results from their particular projects to demonstrate this. The emphasis will be very much placing their work in a general ecological context.

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