

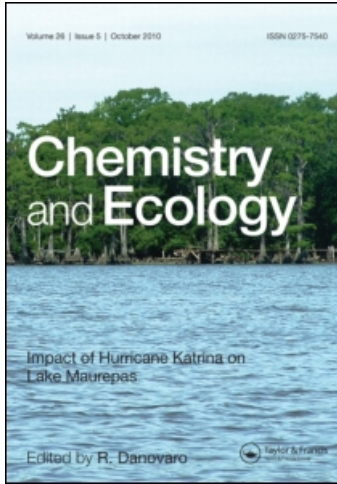
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## Book Review

*The Ecology of the Wadden Sea: Final Report of the Wadden Sea Working Group.* W. J. Wolff, Editor. 2078 pp. A. A. Balkema, P.O. Box 1675, Rotterdam. 1983 4 vols. Hard back Hfl. 195. 00, £45.50. ISBN 1983. 90 6191 062 5

(Received May 21, 1984)

This important work on the ecology of the Wadden Sea was first published in 11 parts bound in paperback between 1978 and 1983 and now appears in hard back. The individual sections deal with geomorphology, hydrography, flora and vegetation of the Wadden Sea and the Wadden islands, invertebrates, fish and fisheries, birds, mammals, fauna of the Wadden islands and nature management and physical planning.

This valuable compendium of papers by individual authors will no doubt be much used as a work of reference. Being prepared in this form the treatment is uneven and some papers are little longer than abstracts: as such, these do not do justice to the subject in hand. It is a frequent complaint by European authors that we in Britain fail to refer to their papers, here the reverse is true, although I suspect that many European workers will also feel neglected. An undoubted service has been done by including information from papers first published in Dutch and Belgian, thus bring them to a wider audience, but, in general, there does seem to be too limited a bibliography. Perhaps this arose from a desire to reduce the length of the book; which even in its present form reached 2078pp., and that is a pity.

These comments notwithstanding this is a useful book to which I expect to refer frequently and at a price of £45 must be regarded as one of the bargains of the year.

E. J. PERKINS