



Fig. 69. Europe with zonobiomes IV–IX, plus western Asia. Because of the influence of the gulf stream zonobiomes run more from north to south in western Europe, whereas in eastern Europe they take the normal east-west course. From north to south: zonobiome IX (tundra zone) with zonoecotone VIII–IX (forest tundra); zonobiome VII (boreal coniferous zone); zonoecotone VI–VIII with zonobiome VI, both of which thin out toward the east (mixed forest and deciduous forest zone); zonobiome VII (steppe zone). Zonobiomes IX, VIII and VII continue eastward into Asia (Fig. 70). Southern Europe belongs to ZB IV (Mediterranean sclerophyllic region), offshoots of which are still detectable in Iran and Afghanistan. Zonobiome III is lacking altogether in Europe; only zonoecotone IV/III occupies a small desert like area in the southeast of Spain, which is the driest part of Europe. In central Europe, zonation is greatly disrupted by the Alps and other mountains. The situation in the mountainous Balkan peninsula is also complicated.