

**M. Holyoak, M.A. Leibold & R.D. Holt: Metacommunities: Spatial Dynamics and Ecological Communities;** *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2005, 513 pp. Price USD 38.-, GBP 24.-, ISBN 0-226-35064-9.* – In this book the editors have mixed a good combination of theory and real data on metacommunity ecology, resulting in a useful synthesis of up-to-date knowledge on relationships between dynamic community ecology and spatial patterns at various scales. The structure of the book makes the studied topic accessible for many readers; the opening of the book is devoted to introducing the metacommunity concept, what is behind it and how it can be handled. Then editors go directly to the core; the two next chapters are devoted to spatial and food web dynamics. The following parts of book deal with empirical and theoretical perspectives in metacommunities. Examples in the first part cover various habitats and species systems and help us understand what the whole book is about and which questions we can ask. The part on theoretical perspectives gives according to its name the background on the metacommunity models. The authors focus on coexistence, assembly dynamics and the role of scale in understanding patterns of dynamics. The book is closed by chapters that indicate the future of metacommunity ecology as a tool for understanding the biological diversity and processes that are behind it. This book opens the door and shows that we can deal with complex systems covering several species at various trophic levels and with the spatial component. This book can be recommended to wide groups of researchers and ecologists as it opens new way of thinking about species interactions on the large scale. (*JPe*)