



## Biogeography and Ecology of Turkmenistan

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Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer Netherlands | remnants of gene pools of these species. Badkhyz Natural Reserve, established in 1941, became a refuge for the last existing population of the Turkmen onager (*Equus hemionus onager*) and a unique pistachio woodland. A new generation of local Turkmen scientists, many of whom were trained by the Russian researchers in the graduate schools of Moscow and Leningrad arose from the 1930s through the 1950s. The Turkmen Academy of Sciences and its journal, *Proceedings* (including the monthly biological series), served to record the results of diverse biological studies in the republic. While basic science in the Middle Asian republics rather gained from the Russian "colonial" influence, natural resources, in contrast, were severely damaged by the Soviet way of handling the economy and social issues. Severe environmental problems have been inherited by the now independent Turkmenistan, including overgrazed desert pastures, deforested mountains, depleted water resources, accumulated pesticides in cotton fields, declining populations of endangered species of animals and plants, and - worst of all - progressing, human-caused desertification (Kharin this volume). In order to approach a solution to these problems, scientists and officials in the republic will need the close attention and help of the international scientific...

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