Moore, P., Cobby, J.: **Introductory Statistics for Environmentalists**. – Prentice Hall Europe, Herfordshire 1998. ISBN 0-13-121807-7. 250 pp. USD 36.95.

The content of the book grew out of the authors' experiences in teaching introductory statistics courses to first-year students at the University of the West of England. The course is spread over 12 chapters covering the substantial part of the statistical problems the environmentalists are likely to come across in their work. The short introductory chapter, named "Good intentions/ poor scientific methods: an example", stresses the necessity of using the appropriate sampling procedure and deriving substantiated conclusions from the available data. The following chapters then deal with the corresponding sampling, data presentation and statistical techniques, including common parametrical (T, F, ANOVA) and non-parametrical (Sign, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, Chi-square) tests. To help the students to understand the underlying theory, the book also contains chapters devoted to the basic probability concepts, such as random event, dependence of the events, conditional probability, random variable, mean, variance and probability distribution.

The majority of the examples in the book are drawn from real-life data. Although the reader is led through the necessary numerical calculation, great emphasis is put on the subsequent interpretation of the results. Every chapter contains exercises with results summarized in the appendix. All examples make heavy use of the computational software, such as EXCEL spreadsheet or the statistical package MINITAB.

Although the book is dedicated to the environmentalists by its title, it could be recommended as an introductory statistical course for students of life sciences in general.

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