

Part 2

Kinds of Microcosms and Mesocosms

In Part 2 are chapters on different kinds of microcosms, including those large enough to be called mesocosms. The purpose of Part 2 is to give examples that further represent the principles given in Part 1 and at the same time introduce as many kinds of microcosms from the fascinating literature as possible. Some of the creative varieties of microcosm structures are shown in order to help those planning new studies. Ideas and interpretations are included here as suggested by these examples and their authors.

Chapter 9 includes aquaria and small tanks; Chapter 10, flowing water microcosms; Chapter 11, terrestrial microcosms, including soil ecosystems; Chapter 12, experimental pools and ponds; Chapter 13, aquatic microcosms dominated by encrusting life and reefs; Chapter 14, tall aquatic microcosms with conditions favoring plankton; and Chapter 15, microcosms adapted to high temperature, high salinity, and other extremes.