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Studies on: Phytogeography of the Arabian Peninsula

Desmond Foster Vesey-Fitzgerald

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ABSTRACT

The British Senior Locust Officer, Vesey-Fitzgerald, after his phytocological studies and reconnaissance surveys in the Arabian Peninsula, gave what might be considered the first cogent and valuable information on the ecology and vegetation of the peninsula. In three papers in the Journal of Ecology, Vesey-Fitzgerald discussed and described vegetation of the Red Sea coast south of Jeddah(1955), the vegetation of the Red Sea coast north of Jeddah(1957a) and the vegetation of the central and eastern parts of the Arabian Peninsula, mostly north of the tropics (1957b). These papers resulted in the recognition of six extra-tropical and five inter-tropical plant associations as follows:

1-Extra-Tropical Associations

A-Coastal Salt-bush Associations.

B-Valley Dwarf-Shrub and Salt-Bush Associations.

C-Central Red Sand Associations.

D-Persian Gulf-Coastal White Sand Associations.

E-*Rhaanterium* Steppe.

F-*Stipa* Steppe.

2-Inter-Tropical Associations

A-Montane *Juniperus* Woodland.

B-Montane *Olea-Tarchonanthus* Associations.

C-*Acacia - Commiphora* Associations

D-Other *Acacia* Associations.

E-Red Sea Coastal Alluvium Associations.