

## Preface

Biogeochemistry is a highly interdisciplinary and diverse field. Scientific papers in this field appear in over forty journals, and yet biogeochemistry is not the primary focus of any existing journals. We introduce *Biogeochemistry* in the belief that there is a need for a common outlet for the publication of scientific papers on biogeochemistry and in the hope that the journal will serve as an integrative force in this developing field. We welcome the submission of any manuscript dealing with the biotic controls on the chemistry of the environment or with the geochemical control of the structure and function of ecosystems.

This first issue contains papers contributed from a symposium on the role of sulfur in ecosystem processes which was held August 10, 1983, at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Myron Mitchell of the State University of New York, Syracuse, convened this symposium and invited these papers. The papers include both review and research reports on sulfur cycling in forests, agricultural systems, and aquatic ecosystems. The emphases of these papers are quite different, reflecting different interests in studying sulfur in these different ecosystems. The agricultural papers stress the importance of sulfur as a nutrient which can limit crop production. The authors of the lake paper and forest papers are interested in sulfur because of increased loading of sulfate to these systems in acid deposition. And the marine paper emphasizes the role of sulfur in benthic energy flow. Despite these different interests, information on the processes of sulfur cycling and methods for studying sulfur cycling should be transferable among systems, at least in part. We hope this issue facilitates such transfer.

*Biogeochemistry* will continue to publish papers from symposia from time to time, but in general it will not be our policy to devote special issues to symposium proceedings. Papers submitted from symposia are treated just like other contributions. They are subject to the same careful review and will be published in the order in which they are accepted, in competition with other submitted papers.

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