

PREFACE

Available in four editions, the first in 1990, the fourth in 2008, *Strickberger's Evolution* has consistently remained abreast of the latest discoveries and approaches to the study of biological evolution and the science of evolutionary biology. The fourth edition incorporated the then fast developing fields of evolutionary developmental biology, paleobiology, and evolutionary ecology. In addition, insights from sequencing entire genomes and the increasing application of bioinformatic tools, cladistic analyses, and systems approaches to the study of organisms made their appearance. This, the fifth edition, continues the tradition of incorporating the latest discoveries concerning evolution. Additionally, this edition has all illustrations and figures in four colors, substantially enhancing the visual learning aspect of the book.

Many strands of evolutionary thought are old and have endured since 1858 when Charles Darwin was writing *On the Origin of Species*. Essential to our understanding of evolution is that groups of organisms are bound together by their common inheritance; that the past has been long enough for inherited changes to accumulate; and perhaps most essential of all, that discoverable biological processes and natural relationships among organisms explain the reality of evolution. Although each of these aspects had been studied and discussed at various times in human history, only after the mid-nineteenth century when Charles Darwin developed his theory of evolution by natural selection was biological evolution recognized as the science of life.

The central aim of the science of evolutionary biology is to explain the origins and diversity of life. The properties of different organisms—the organization and function of their component parts—are explained within the context of their organismal histories, which include adaptations to specific lifestyles at particular times. When historical conditions are repeated, and different organisms are subjected to similar selective evolutionary forces, some common features can be predicted; geographically widely separated populations and species, such as fish adapted to cave conditions, consistently show rudimentary eyes, enhanced development of chemosensory organs, and loss of pigment, among other common attributes. Other evolutionary changes are contingent on past history and environments, for example, the evolution of flight among reptiles and not among frogs or most mammals.

In this text we provide the evidence upon which general principles can be based and explore those aspects of organisms and biological processes that appear to be specific to lineages or stages of evolution. To this end, there is a logical arrangement of the subject matter, although the structure of the book allows you to begin with Part 8 or to read individual parts as units independent of the other parts:

- beginning with the history of evolutionary ideas, species and their relationships, and patterns of evolutionary change (Part 1);
- moving to the origins of the universe, Earth, rocks, continents, oceans and atmospheres (Part 2);
- before discussing the origin, molecules, cells, organisms and natural selection (Part 3).
- Part 4 considers how 19th century naturalists Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace came to almost the same theory of evolution by natural selection under the influence of social economic writings of Thomas Malthus; how Gregor Mendel's experiments provided basic principles of inheritance that were unknown to Darwin or to Wallace; and how later studies showed how environments and genes interact in inheritance (heredity).

- Operation of natural selection and how genotypes (which are inherited) and phenotypes (which are not) interact are the topics of Part 5.
- Natural selection is only effective if biological variation is present. Sources of variation in individuals and populations are the topics of Part 6.
- Interactions between individuals and populations and between both and the environment, as reflected in competition, predation, coevolution, and extinction, maintain species and are important components of speciation, the topics of Part 7.
- The book ends with how cultural, social, and biological evolution interact in our own populations, the impact humans have had on the evolution of other species, and how culture, evolution, and religion interact and coexist (Part 8).

Summaries are provided at the beginning of each chapter. We suggest that you read the summary both before and after you read each chapter—before to see whether what is coming is familiar or not; after to be sure you have captured the essence of the topic(s) of the chapter. Boxes within chapters are used to draw attention to particular topics. Important terms and concepts are highlighted in **bold** with summary text highlighted in blue.

Most chapters end with an End Box or Boxes (23 in all), each of which begins with a synopsis of the contents. Some End Boxes cover material that was distributed among several chapters in the fourth edition: Fossils as Evidence of Past Life (End Box 3.1 in Chapter 3) is an example. Other End Boxes are large and relevant to the content of more than one chapter. End Box 17.1 Animals Arise (4300 words, five figures) is an example. This End Box discusses the organisms present in the Precambrian and Early Cambrian, examines how stem taxa are distinguished from crown taxa, how limits on morphological variation are studied, and how “molecular clocks” are used to calibrate rates and times of evolution. Because knowledge of gene regulation obtained from living organisms tell us much about how animals arose and evolved, this End Box has been placed at the end of the chapter on gene regulation and the origin of variation.

Much more information and analysis is available on all topics discussed than we could possibly have included in the book. Many introductory textbooks provide no access to the literature upon which the science is based. We think this is a mistake for two major reasons:

- (1) One is intrinsic to the nature of the subject matter. Evolution is a science, and as such, you as the reader of this scientific textbook should not take our representations and interpretations of scientific research for granted. Rejection or acceptance of a scientific hypothesis is based on whether data gathered to test the hypothesis refute it or not. As one example, the sequence of hominin, primate-like fossils extending from the far past to the present supports the hypothesis that humans have a primate origin (Chapter 25).
- (2) The second reason is that whether this book is used for an introductory or a more advanced class—and it is, in our view, suitable for either—the primary literature cited provides an ideal basis for tutorials, discussions, essays and/or presentations.

As you should be able to check the primary literature for yourself, we have cited enough of that primary literature to enable you to enter it with ease. General references are highlighted in yellow in the text (e.g., **Bowler, 2003**) and grouped together at the end of each chapter. References to specific studies are provided in full as footnotes.

ORGANIZATION OF MATERIAL IN THE FIFTH AND FOURTH EDITIONS

Organization of some of the material in the fifth edition differs from the fourth. Specifically:

- Information on species and species concepts, found in chapters 2, 8, and 11 in the fourth edition is consolidated as Chapter 2 in this edition.

- Evidence of patterns of evolution in multicellular organisms (fungi, plants, animals) was discussed in six chapters (14–19) in the fourth edition. That information has been condensed into Chapter 3 and into End Boxes in this edition.
- Chapters 14 and 15 in the fifth edition bring together information on natural selection that was distributed throughout the fourth edition, especially in chapters 11, 12, and 14.
- The two major modes of speciation discussed in Chapter 24 in the fourth edition are each given separate chapters (22, 23) in the fifth edition.
- Importance of sources of variation in evolution is highlighted by placing the discussions of individual- and population-level variation into four chapters in Part 6.

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE TEXT

Jones & Bartlett Learning offers an array of ancillaries to assist instructors and students in teaching and mastering the concepts in this text. To request additional information and review copies of any of the following items please email info@jblearning.com.

FOR THE STUDENT

Developed exclusively for the fifth edition of *Strickberger's Evolution*, the Navigate Companion Website, go.jblearning.com/Evolution5eCW, offers a variety of resources to enhance understanding of evolution. The site contains quizzes and exercises to test comprehension and retention and an interactive glossary. This site also has links to other interesting and informative websites and seminal papers in the field of evolution and access comes free with each new printed edition of the text.

FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

Compatible with Windows and Macintosh platforms, the Instructor's Media CD provides instructors with the following traditional ancillaries:

- The PowerPoint™ Image Bank provides the illustrations, photographs, and tables (to which Jones & Bartlett Learning holds the copyright or has permission to reproduce digitally) inserted into PowerPoint slides. You can quickly and easily copy individual images or tables into your existing lecture slides.
- The PowerPoint Lecture Outline Presentation Package, created by Richard E. Strauss of Texas Tech University, provides lecture notes and images for each chapter of *Strickberger's Evolution*. Instructors with Microsoft PowerPoint software can customize the outlines, art, and order of presentation.

Additional resources are available for download online, including:

- The Test Bank of over 700 questions, created by DorothyBelle Poli of Roanoke College, is available as Rich Text Files and in several LMS compatible formats.
- Supplemental problems and exercises that were updated for the edition will enhance students' comprehension of and appreciation for the material in text. They are available as downloadable word documents at go.jblearning.com/Evolution5eCW.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following individuals, each a specialist in evolutionary biology, in a particular area of evolutionary biology and/or who teach evolution, took time from their academic schedules to comment on drafts of chapters or boxes for this and previous editions. We appreciate your insights and forthright comments:

Ehab Abouheif, McGill University
 Sina Adl, Dalhousie University
 Christine Andrews, University of Chicago
 Christopher C. Austin, Louisiana State University
 Joseph Beilawski, Dalhousie University
 Wouter Bleeker, Geological Survey of Canada
 William A. Brindley, Utah State University
 Michael A. Buratovich, Spring Arbor University
 Albert Buckelew, Bethany College
 Lisa Budney, Dalhousie University
 Richard Burian, Virginia Tech
 Nicholas J. Cheper, East Central University
 Lee Christianson, University of the Pacific
 M. Michael Cohen, Dalhousie University
 David Deamer, University of California Santa Cruz
 Leslie Dendy, University of New Mexico—Los Alamos
 Tamara Franz-Odenaal, Mount Saint Vincent University
 Barbara A. Frase, Bradley University
 Ann Fraser, Kalamazoo College
 Jonathan Frye, McPhearson College
 Jennifer M. Gleason, University of Kansas
 Kenneth Gobalet, California State University Bakersfield
 Dalton R. Gossett, Louisiana State University
 Rosemary Grant, Princeton University
 Michael Gray, Dalhousie University
 Robert Guralnick, University of Colorado, Boulder
 William Hahn, Georgetown University
 Jenna Hellack, University of Central Oklahoma
 W. Wyatt Hoback, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 John Hunt, University of Arkansas—at Monticello
 John C. Jahoda, Bridgewater State University
 Heather Jamniczky, University of Calgary
 Megan Johnson, University of Calgary
 Mark Johnston, Dalhousie University
 Devon B. Keeney, Le Moyne College
 Hollie Knoll, University of Calgary
 Shigeru Kuratani, Riken Center for Developmental Biology, Japan
 Robert Lee, Dalhousie University
 Troy A. Ladine, East Texas Baptist University
 Vicky M. Lentz, State University of New York College at Oneonta
 Sally Leys, University of Alberta
 Chris N. Lorentz, Thomas More College
 Ian McLaren, Dalhousie University
 Gordon McOuat, University of Kings College
 Jeff Meldrum, Idaho State University
 Mary Murnik, Ferris State University
 Audrey Napier, Alabama State University
 Karl Niklas, Cornell University

Glen Northcutt, University of California, San Diego
 John Olsen, Rhodes College
 Wendy Olson, University of Northern Iowa
 Leslie Orgel, The Salk Institute
 Louise Page, University of Victoria
 Keith W. Pecor, The College of New Jersey
 Ray Pierotti, University of Arkansas
 David Piper, Atlantic Geological Survey
 DorothyBelle Poli, Roanoke College
 David Polly, Indiana University, Bloomington
 Mark Regan, Griffiths University, Brisbane
 Andrew Roger, Dalhousie University
 Harry Roy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Anthony Russell, University of Calgary
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 Kevin R. Siebenlist, Marquette University
 Alastair Simpson, Dalhousie University
 Shiva Singh, University of Western Ontario
 Eric Sniverly, University of Calgary
 George Spagna, Randolph-Macon College
 Richard E. Strauss, Texas Tech University
 John Stone, McMaster University
 John Thomlinson, California State University, Dominguez Hills
 James F. Thompson, Austin Peay State University
 Michael E. Toliver, Eureka College
 Matt Vickaryous, University of Calgary
 Marvalee Wake, University of California Berkeley
 Alan Weiner, University of Washington
 Ken Weiss, Pennsylvania State University
 Polly Winsor, University of Toronto
 Pat Wise, University of Calgary
 Nate Young, Stanford University
 Stephen J. Zipko, Farleigh Dickinson University

The glossary is a vital part of any book and especially of a textbook. We have prepared a glossary of 900 terms to provide definitions of the key terms and processes discussed in the text. Along with the index, the glossary serves as a way to access similar or related terms and concepts. As one example, under the term *Adaptive radiation*, Biogeography, Innovation, Speciation, and Zoogeography are cross-referenced as topics related to adaptive radiation. We have also set up the glossary to draw attention to contrasting terms or concepts. As one key example, under the term *Individual*, Populations is cross-referenced as a fundamentally different level of biological organization others.

The index is also a vital part of any book and especially of a textbook. We have prepared an index of 2,870 terms to allow you to access the text with ease. As is the glossary, the index is cross-referenced extensively, enabling you to find related material on a topic of interest.

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January, 2013