# EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

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# EVOLUTION



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## EVOLUTION AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY





#### **EVOLUTION** (*evolvere*, *evolutio*) = unfold, unfolding (of a scroll of papyrus)

### Albrecht von Haller (1774):

development of individual embryo

essentially ontogenetic development according to a preset programme (~ preformationism)





#### in a broad sense = change

(politics, economy, technology, scientific theories etc.)





**BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION** = <u>heritable change in the properties of</u> <u>populations of organisms over the course of generations</u> structure, function and organization of organisms or their parts, behaviour and mutual relationships

#### **CULTURAL EVOLUTION**



T. Dobzhansky (American Biology Teacher, 1973)

## **EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY**

= scientific field studying principles of biological evolution

properties and mechanisms of evolutionary process

#### **PROPERTIES OF BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION**



<sup>\*)</sup> = irreversible change of energy

teleology: everything has its purpose finalism: the doctrine that final causes determine the course of all events -Teilhard de Chardin: "Omega Point"

#### **PROPERTIES OF BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION**

IS <u>random</u> (both <u>deterministic</u> and <u>stochastic</u> processes and mechanisms)
 IS <u>opportunistic</u>, ie. doesn't find global optima



human design engineer natural selection

#### **PROPERTIES OF BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION**

IS <u>random</u> (both <u>deterministic</u> and <u>stochastic</u> processes and mechanisms)

- IS <u>opportunistic</u>, ie. doesn't find global optima
- HAS NO <u>purpose or goal</u> (nor survival of species!)
- IS neither moral nor amoral
- IS NOT progressive









"march of progress"









## **Evolution and progress**



#### **STRUCTURE OF EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY**

**2 principal questions:** 

#### History of life?

systematics paleontology

#### **Mechanisms of changes?**

evolutionary genetics

e. ecology

e. developmental biology (evo-devo) behavioural ecology

sociobiology, e. psychology

e. physiology

e. morphology

## **HISTORY OF EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHTS**

The beginning of evolutionary biology = 1859 (Darwin's *Origin of Species*), BUT:

evolutionary thoughts much older

only after the World War II evolutionary biology considered true science

History of evol. thoughts can be divided into the following stages:

before Darwin Darwin's/Wallace's theory evol. theory at the turn of 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century Modern Synthesis and recent history

#### A) Antient history and the Middle Ages:

inthesky

Anaximander of Miletus (ca. 610–ca. 546 BC) The Sun humans The Moon and animals Air Alercury have evolved Earth Denus from fish Mars Jupiter \* \* \* \* \* Anaximander: A cylindrical earth and "vents" of fire Fire stars & sun are fires trapped in globular masses by cooler air: "nozzle" or "vent" of sun facing towards us is what weactuallysee

A) Antient history and the Middle Ages:

Xenofanes of Colofon (ca. 570-ca. 475 BC)



A) Antient history and the Middle Ages:

Empedocles z Acragas (ca. 492–432 BC)















A) Antient history and the Middle Ages:

Christian philosophy:



Plato: theory of Ideas (→ Christian God)
Aristotle: first classification of organisms (→ Scala Naturae)



Aristotle (384–322 BC)

Plato (427–347 BC)

#### Scala Naturae ("Great Chain of Being")





Saptemas eduticanit fibi boingis.



James Ussher – Annalium pars posterior (1654): World created at dusk preceding 23th October 4004 BC (~ 6000 years old)

~ Isaac Newton: 3998 BC

#### literal reading of Bible = creationism



B) since the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century to the French Revolution:













#### Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707–1788):

since 1749–1789: 26 volumes of *Histoire Naturelle* (1789–1804 another 8 volumes) age of Earth = 75,000 years

1766: related species from a common ancestor, modification by climatic factors

1778: age 75 kya – 2-3 Mya



C) 19<sup>th</sup> century:

#### Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet de LAMARCK (1744–1829)

1809: Philosophie Zoologique

- 1. inherent tendency to change
- 2. inheritance of acquired characteristics

change of species towards higher organisation (transformism)

continual spontaneous emergence of simple organisms

number of species unchanged

= LAMARCKISM



criticism of Lamarck's theory:

#### Georges Cuvier (1769–1832)

## Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hillaire (1772–1844)

support of Lamarck, against Cuvier

saltations, no common ancestor, direct influence of environment

close to Goethe and Oken (mysticism)

uniformity of structure (vertebrate structure has common features)





#### "classical" creationism




#### A. Augier: Essai d'une nouvelle classification des vegetaux (1801)



T A B L E A U Servant à montrer l'origine des différens animaux.

ADDITIONS.

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J.-B. Lamarck: *Philosophie zoologique* (1809)



Heinrich Georg Bronn: Untersuchungen über die Entwicklungs – Gesetzte der organischen Welt während der Bildungszeit unserer Erd-Oberfläche (1858)

# Age of Earth

James Hutton (1726–1797): geological evidence suggests that Earth is inconceivably old  $\Rightarrow$  How can we use our observation and experiment for explaining changes on such the huge time scale?

 $\rightarrow$  we must rely on processes that we know at present

Charles Lyell (1797–1875): uniformitarianism Principles of Geology





C. Lyell



J. Hutton



# paleontology:



Richard Owen (1804–1892)







natural theology: William Paley (1743–1805) metaphor of God as a watchmaker



# 2. Darwin's/Wallace's theory

# Charles Robert DARWIN (1809–1882)





# \* 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809 Shrewsbury



The Mount, Shrewsbury





**Erasmus** Darwin



Josiah Wedgwood I.



**Robert Darwin** 





# Wedgwood china



Est. 1759





# October 1825: University of Edinburgh



# January 1828: Christ's College, University of Cambridge







Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873), geologist



John Stevens Henslow (1796–1861), botanist, geologist





#### HMS Beagle Plymouth 27.12.1831

# Robert FitzRoy (1805–1865)





Base 802991AI (C00671) 2-04



Charles Lyell Principles of Geology (1830–1833)







Copyright @ Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Benjamin Cummings.

Thomas Robert Malthus (1766–1834)

1798, 1801: An Essay on the Principle of Population

decrease of birth and infantile mortality, increase of mean age  $\Rightarrow$  population growth

Great Britain (Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, London), Ireland, USA, Naples ("city of beggars")

BUT: agricultural revolution (England, USA), in USA immigrants included to the est.





1842: pencil-written 35-page outline of the theory of natural selection

1844: extension to 230 pages ... asks his wife Emma for publishing after his death

11<sup>th</sup> January 1844: letter to J. Hooker with the theory outline

I am almost convinced (quite contrary to opinion I started with) that species are not (it is like confessing a murder) immutable. [1844, Darwin's letter to Hooker]



#### Robert Chambers (1802–1871)

1844: Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation)12 editions, in total 100,000 copiesauthorship discovered as late as in 1884







1846 ...





barnacles



1854: 2 books on extant barnacles and 2 books on extinct barnacles

1856: Darwin starts to work on a book on natural selection, planned extent 1000 pages ...

5th August 1857: theory outline to A. Gray

1858: letter from A.R. Wallace On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type





# Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913)





Charles Lyell (1797–1875)





Joseph Dalton Hooker (1814–1879)



Thomas Henry Huxley (1825–1895)

Asa Gray (1810–1888)

1<sup>st</sup> July 1858: Linnean Society of London

On the Tendency of Species to Form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Means of Natural Selection





# 24. listopadu 1859 On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life



) The Complete Work of Charles Darwin



MR. BERGH TO THE RESCUE.

THE DEFRAUDED GOBILLA. "That Man wants to claim my Pedigree. He says he is one of my Descendants." Mr. BERGH. "Now, Mr. DARWIN, how could you insult him so?"



#### **Richard Owen**



#### THE THE THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARIES

#### THE VOYAGE OF H.M.S. BEAGLE,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN FITZROY, R.N.,

DURING THE YEARS 1832 TO 1836.

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Ebitod and Duperintended by CHARLES DARWIN, ESQ. M.A. F.R.S. Suc. G.S. NATURALION 70 THE EXPEDITION.

> PART I. FOSSIL MAMMALIA:

BY RICHARD OWEN, ESQ. F.R.S. PREMOR OF ANALYSIS PREVIOUS TO THE ROTAL COLLEGE OF PREMORDS IN IN CORRESPONDENCE MEMORY OF THE INSTITUTE OF FLANDS, LET. ETC.

James Hall Collection

LONDON: PUBLISHED BY SMITH, ELDER AND CO. 65, CORNHILL MDCCCXL



# Samuel Wilberforce (1805–1873)





# 1868: The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication

# 1871: The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex



1872: The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals

LONDON: JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET. 1872.

THE VARIATION

ANIMALS AND PLANTS UNDER DOMESTICATION.

The right of Translation is reserved.

+ 19<sup>th</sup> April 1882, Down House









HERSCHEL ERE FAMA WTONUM

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN BORN 12 FEBRUARY 1809 DIED 19 APRIL 1882

# **Darwin's theory = DARWINISM:**

1. Descent of all species from a common ancestor

no action of a supernatural being (materialistic explanation)

no abiogenesis, species emerge from other species

divergence by accumulating small changes (no saltations, no catastrophism)

2. Theory of natural selection







# Lamarck:



# 3. Evolutionary theory at the turn of the century

# Problems of Darwin's theory:

time: William Thomson, lord Kelvin age of Earth max. 200 My

Cambrian fossils



stromatolites





# Problems of Darwin's theory:

# origin of complex organs







ignorance of the theory of heredity: blending heredity (× 1867 Fleeming Jenkin)

pangenesis (gemmules)




Herbert Spencer (1820–1903): social Darwinism Marx, Engels: marxism

evolution as a progressive process







#### H. Spencer



K. Marx

F. Engels



### 1. Orthogenesis:



Megaceros giganteus



finalism

### 2. Neolamarckism:

Paul Kammerer, Arthur Koestler Iysenkism: Trofim Děnisovič Lysenko



T. D. Lysenko

### August Weismann: soma + germen



A. Weismann



### 3. Mutationism:



macromutations: Richard Goldschmidt (1940) - "hopeful monsters"

Znak (např. výška)



Znak (např. výška)

### 4. Modern Synthesis



RONALD A. FISHER



J. B. S. HALDANE



SEWALL WRIGHT

Ronald Aylmer Fisher (1890-1962) John B. S. Haldane (1892-1964) Sewall Wright (1889-1988) Sergey Chetverikov (1880-1958)



1918: results of biometricians in agreement with Mendelism





1918: results of biometricians in agreement with Mendelism

1930: The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection 1931: Evolution in Mendelian *Populations* 

1932: The Causes of Evolution

principles of population genetics

**NEODARWINISM** in a narrow sense

Theodosius Dobzhansky (1900-1975) 1937 – Genetics and the Origin of Species

Edmund B. Ford (1901-1988) 1964 – *Ecological Genetics* 

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Julian S. Huxley (1887-1975)
1942 – Evolution: The Modern Synthesis
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Ernst Mayr (1904-2005) George Gaylord Simson (1902-1984) George Ledyard Stebbins (1906-2000)

1947 Princeton 1949 Genetics, Paleontology, and Evolution

Synthetic theory of evolution = Modern Synthesis

**NEODARWINISM** in a broad sense

### Some principles of Neodarwinism:

phenotypic differences are caused by differences in genotype and partly by environmental influences

environment can change the mutation rate but not give rise to adaptive mutations

heredity is based on genes which maintain their identity from generation to generation

evolutionary changes take place in populations as changes of gene frequencies

there is no gene flow among species

not even macromutation can cause the origin of a new species

new species generally emerge by genetic divergence of geographically isolated populations

differences, processes and mechanisms on the supraspecific level (macroevolution) can be explained with the same principles as those on the infraspecific level (microevolution)

fossil evidence is in agreement with principles of evolutionary changes, no other mechanisms are necessary (lamarckism, orthogenesis, vitalism, mutationism)

## **CAN EVOLUTION BE PROVEN?**

### suboptimal traits: inverse eye, pharyngeal nerve



# transient forms?



### rudimentary structures



### rudimentary structures



**FIGURE 22.19** 

**Vestigial structures.** The skeleton of a whale reveals the presence of pelvic bones. These bones resemble those of other mammals, but are only weakly developed in the whale and have no apparent function.

stamens in asexual dandelion





### fossil evidence and phylogeny



(b) Pořadí hlavních skupin obratlovců ve fosilním záznamu



### homology: organs, genetic code, amino acids





### evolution and geography





FIGURE 3.6. Wallace's Line (thick red line) separates two distinct present-day land faunas.

3.6, adapted from Spice Island Voyage, University of Limerick, Ireland Project

Evolution © 2007 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press

### observed evolution: Primula verticillata × P. floribunda $\rightarrow$ P. kewensis Galleopsis pubescens × G. speciosa $\rightarrow$ G. tetralit



**FIGURE 3.10.** *Primula kewensis (left)* was created artificially by crossing *Primula verticillata (mid-dle)* and *Primula floribunda (right)*. It has twice as many chromosomes as its parent species and so can interbreed with neither.

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Berra TM (1990): Evolution and the Myth of Creationism. A Basic Guide to the Facts in the Evolution Debate

Handbook





Futuyma DJ (2007): Science on Trial: The Case for Evolution

