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Developmental Plasticity and Evolution



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Developmental Plasticity and Evolution

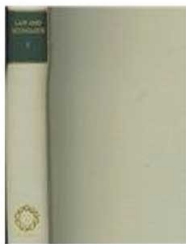
The first comprehensive synthesis on development and evolution: it applies to all aspects of development, at all levels of organization and in all organisms, taking advantage of modern findings on behavior, genetics, endocrinology, molecular biology, evolutionary theory and phylogenetics to show the connections between developmental mechanisms and evolutionary change. This book solves key problems that have impeded a definitive synthesis in the past. It uses new concepts and specific examples to show how to relate environmentally sensitive development to the genetic theory of adaptive evolution and to explain major patterns of change. In this book development includes not only embryology a

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Davy Crockett: A Life on the Frontier (Ready-to-read SOFA)

People said that when Davy was born he weighed more than two hundred pounds! They also said he saved the world from a comet by grabbing its tail, twirling it around, and sending it back into the sky. These stories are just myths, but Davy did have an amazing life. Here is the real story of Davy Cro

Law and Economics: The Early Journal Literature



This collection contains texts from both fields of law and economics. The material demonstrates the complexity of correlating the two areas, examining the relationship between the economy and the legal system and exploring the fundamental social processes and problems involved therein.



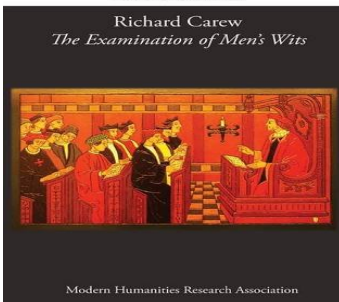
I'll Seize the Day Tomorrow

I'll Seize the Day Tomorrow is the story of Jonathan Goldstein's journey to find some great truth on his road to forty. In a series of wonderfully funny stories, the host of CBC's WireTap recounts the highs and lows of his last year in his thirties. Throughout the year, Goldstein

MHRA Tudor & Stuart Translations
Volume 17

Rocio G. Sumillera

Richard Carew
The Examination of Men's Wits



Richard Carew, 'The Examination of Men's Wits'

Juan Huarte de San Juan (1529-1588) was a Spanish physician and natural philosopher who strove to answer why men possess specific natural abilities that prepare them to excel only in particular fields of knowledge. With his treatise Examen de ingenios para las ciencias (Baeza, 1575), dedicated to K

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Very detailed, well-explained scenarios to change your view on how evolution works

Review 2:

A fantastic scholarship. A must read for anyone tired with the evolutionary synthesis platitude that places the gene in the driver's seat of evolution and development; like novel structures and functions are invented by mutations, ahead of a need for them, or that development is pre-programmed by our genes. West-Eberhard, instead, places the phenotype and organismic activity in that seat. Read the book and see for yourself why the active organism and its development deserve that seat. A long and demanding read, to be sure, but worth all the hours you will spend reading it (almost 700 pages)

Review 3:

If you never fully accepted the "simple" gene-based model (the Modern Synthesis) of Natural Selection, this is the book for you!

Review 4:

This text is amazing. It takes a comparative approach in providing countless examples of developmental plasticity and its importance in the scope of evolutionary theory. It's truly a synthesis and the prime source for the long-awaited integration of development with evolution.

Review 5:

West-Eberhard has produced a 794 page tome that chokes the brain and deadens the senses. On the reverse cover, it asks a question about the picture on the cover, and refers to a chapter for the answer. As far as I can see, the question is never addressed.

This reveals two of the books problems. First, its grandiose aspirations, to be a new 'Modern Synthesis,' and to bring developmental biology into the fold, are never backed with a strength of data and arguments that equal her claims. Secondly, the book is a morass of arguments, constantly pointing to other parts of the book. I started drawing little circle around each time we were referred to another chapter, but I quickly stopped as my pages became tangled messes of circles.

The writing is murky at best, and the reader learns to treasure moments of lucidity, as they are long in coming. The structure often seems backwards, confusing, and generally awkward. This tome is in dire need of a biologically educated editor. Her tone is often confrontational and bullying towards other authors.

Technically speaking, her ideas within are vague, and while she lays out a clear path for phenotypic plasticity leading evolution, the reader quickly realizes her definitions of concepts like 'Phenotype' are so nebulous and removed from what any other average biologist uses that to argue against is to try and staple Jell-O to your roof. At times, she attempts to have things in two different ways - arguing phylogenetic inertia isn't a relevant or especially frequent, but also wanting traits to remain perfect and unexpressed for absurd periods of time.

The mathematical treatment of the subject in this book is non-existent. This is almost unforgivable, in a topic that clearly needs a mathematical treatment to establish its true importance in any given system beyond the examples given. Its testable predictions are rare in

coming, often muddled in content, and frequently overlap with predictions made by alternate competing hypothesis. Those looking for a research programme had best look elsewhere. It definitely has not, and will not, sway any sceptics.

Its sole, redeeming quality is that it aggressively challenges the readers pre-existing notions of evolution, and forces the reader to reconsider long-held notions. But for those of us with limited time, a more succinct volume could accomplish the same introspection.

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Developmental plasticity and evolution—quo vadis? - NCBI - NIH

18 Mar 2015 ... The role of developmental (phenotypic) plasticity in ecology and evolution is receiving a growing appreciation among the biologists, and many plasticity-specific concepts have become well established as part of the mainstream evolutionary biological thinking. In this essay, I posit that despite this progress ...

The role of developmental plasticity in evolutionary innovation

15 Jun 2011 ... Explaining the origins of novel traits is central to evolutionary biology. Longstanding theory suggests that developmental plasticity, the ability of an individual to modify its development in response to environmental conditions, might facilitate the evolution of novel traits. Yet whether and how such ...

Review Developmental plasticity and the evolution of parental effects

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Developmental Plasticity and Evolution: Mary Jane West-Eberhard ...

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