

# Preface

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The aim of this book is to provide a theoretical and practical guide to evolutionary biogeography for advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate students, academics, and anyone concerned with the study of biogeographic patterns and their evolution. It provides an introduction to evolutionary biogeography, its basic concepts, history, approaches, methods, developments, and case studies. I have assumed that the readers have a basic knowledge of phylogenetic systematics, so cladistic methods are not detailed. Some existing books deal with a specific biogeographic approach or with several methods but fail to provide a coherent framework from which one can choose the most appropriate, leaving the reader uncertain about how to address a particular problem. I discuss the available methods and suggest the appropriate step of a biogeographic analysis in which to use any particular one. The case studies (most from my own research) are intended to help the reader make a rational choice from among the approaches and methods available. I have also included problems, questions for discussion, and a glossary that can be used in the classroom.

In recent decades, biogeography has undergone much debate. Dispersalists, panbiogeographers, cladistic biogeographers, ecological biogeographers, macroecologists, and phylogeographers, among others, have disputed the relative merits of their approaches but have not worked toward their integration. However, a few authors have noted this lack of interaction recently and have stated that the integration of approaches and methods in biogeography is a salient issue. I hope this book can contribute to a future integrative biogeography.

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