
Series Preface

The Species and Systematics series is a broad-ranging venue where authors can provide the scientific community with comprehensive treatments of the history and philosophy of fundamental concepts in systematic biology, phylogenetics, and the science of taxonomy. The series also intends to connect historical perspectives to new ideas and emerging technologies that have implications for the field. The series is committed to stimulating discussion among students and researchers in biology on controversial and clarifying ideas related to the future course that we are charting in biodiversity research.

There are many approaches to the study of biological diversity and to embrace this, future volumes in the series may include detailed development and comparisons of existing and novel methods in systematics and biogeography, empirical studies that provide new insights into old questions and raise new questions to biologists and philosophers of science, and historical treatises on central and reoccurring concepts that benefit from both a retrospective and a new perspective. Some volumes will address a single important concept in great depth, giving authors the freedom to present ideas with their own slant, whereas others will be edited collections of shorter papers intended to place alternative views in sharp contrast.

For science in general and certainly for systematics, few things are more significant than placing the origin and evolution of an idea or principle in its historical context. In this book, Olivier Rieppel does a masterful job of fixing Haeckel as an anchor point for a thread that weaves through and touches virtually every important principle of phylogenetics, leading to Hennig's ideas that launched the cladistic revolution. The detailed consideration of how this thread of ideas played out in the arena of heavy biopolitics, which colors both language and intent, gives readers new insights into many concepts fundamental to current and future research. *Phylogenetic Systematics: Haeckel to Hennig* is an excellent example of scholarship and a very fine addition to the series that will make the reader pause and think and then evoke discussion, both of which are chief goals of the series.

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