

Preface

Why a new outlet for reviews, critical essays, and commentary in evolutionary biology? This inaugural issue of *The Year in Evolutionary Biology* is a collaborative effort among many individuals who feel that evolutionary biology remains underrepresented in the literature. For 30 years the field depended on just two publications devoted to long reviews and syntheses, *Annual Review of Ecology & Systematics* and *Evolutionary Biology*. These serials expanded their volume sizes over the years, but the literature has grown more quickly.

As this exponential expansion continues, we believe that outlets for reviews must keep pace. Thus we are providing this venue for synthesizing recent developments, prognosticating future avenues for investigation, and forging new links between evolutionary biology and other fields. Our goal is to provide a basis for discussions of current developments with a format that fills the niche between the shorter, more focused reviews found in *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* and those published in the *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*.

The *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* is a particularly appealing venue for a variety of reasons. It has been published continuously since 1823 and has a long record of publishing up-to-date proceedings of conferences and symposia. Now, with its partnership with Wiley-Blackwell, it will provide simultaneous electronic and hardcopy distribution, and make NYAS publications widely available—currently they reach over 5000 academic libraries, so that the worldwide academic community should have ready online access.

In this first volume we provide a diverse set of reviews, running the gamut from the origins of angiosperms to evolution in communities, sex to speciation, and costs of plasticity to genetic architecture. In addition, we initiate a set of shorter perspectives, aimed at providing commentary, controversy, and new points of view on topics of current interest.

The authors and topics for this inaugural issue were selected and invited in close consultation with a dedicated editorial advisory board. We want to thank our authors for their contributions, our anonymous peer reviewers for their prompt and fine work in vetting the submitted manuscripts, and the members of our advisory board, Alex Badyaev, Austin Hughes, Richard Lenski, Trudy Mackay, Juha Merilä, Fred Nijhout, Barbara Schaal, and Dolph Schluter.

To our readers, thank you for your attention, and we hope you are well pleased with the contents of this, our inaugural volume. We would welcome suggestions of topics and

individuals for reviews and perspectives and will take these suggestions to our advisory board as we develop future volumes.

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