

Preface

Does today's man look the same as say, 2 million years ago? Did you know that Pug and Great Dane have the same ancestor? Why children take on some physical and behavioral traits from their parents? All these questions and many more are answered by evolutionary biology (EB). A subfield of biology, EB studies the evolutionary processes that produced the diversity of life on earth as well as the descent and origin of species.

To understand the purpose of EB, we must know a bit of its history. Ancient Romans, Greeks, Chinese, and medieval Islamic science believed that species alter over a period of time. However, the theory was first formally proposed by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck in early 19th century. Further ahead, theories of natural selection and evolution were propagated by Charles Darwin. Though the acceptance of the theory was slow with some exceptions like Germany, etc.; eventually, evolution was agreed upon. That paved way for modern evolutionary synthesis, which involves evidence from various branches of biology like systematics, cytology, morphology, paleontology, etc.

Eventually, EB has reached its current status in the world of science and evolution studies. And the credit goes to evolutionary biologists who have worked hard and made the concept and different theories of evolution comprehensible. Evolutionary biologists like Theodosius Dobzhansky, R. A. Fisher, J. B. S. Haldane, George Gaylord Simpson are very few to name who have immensely contributed to this field. Moreover, it's heartening to see an expanding literature specifically dedicated to the subject.

Editor