GENES AND EVOLUTION

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This volume of *Current Topics in Developmental Biology* is being published at a time when many research laboratories are focusing on the evolution of diverse phenotypic traits and trying to dissect their genetic basis.

A wide array of powerful methods have been developed in recent years to find the genes and the mutations responsible for evolutionary changes, so that empirical data on the "loci of evolution" are accumulating at a fast pace. The field of evolutionary genetics has now moved from pure theoretical computations of changes in allele frequencies in populations to assessments of the actual mutations that occurred in populations and that cause observable changes in phenotype, bringing up new ideas and new questions.

Each chapter provides an overview of current knowledge and ongoing research on the genes and the mutations responsible for phenotypic evolution in different areas of investigation. As a whole, this volume constitutes a remarkable material to reflect on our current state of research and to try to detect new future explanatory frameworks and ideas to be discovered from our examination of the genes and the mutations responsible for evolution.

KEY FEATURES:

- Authoritative and expert contributions from an exciting area of biological research, evolutionary genetics
- Comprehensive and state-of-the-art reviews with emphasis on current views and findings

Cover images:
From chapter 9, figure 2, Palette of iris color and patterns observed in human populations, Patricia Balaresque and Tun E. King. Cover images, with kind permission of P. Gérard/CNRS.

ACADEMIC PRESS
An imprint of Elsevier
elsevier.com

ISBN 978-0-12-417194-7