

Oxford Series in Ecology and Evolution

Edited by Robert M. May and Paul H. Harvey

In this work, George C. Williams—one of evolutionary biology's most distinguished scholars—examines the mechanism and meaning of natural selection in evolution. Williams offers his own perspective on modern evolutionary theory, including discussions of the gene as the unit of selection, clade selection and macroevolution, diversity within and among populations, stasis, and other timely and provocative topics. In dealing with the levels-of-selection controversy, he urges a pervasive form of the replicator-vehicle distinction. Natural selection, he argues, takes place in the separate *domains* of information and matter. Levels-of-selection questions, consequently, require different theoretical devices depending on the domain being discussed. In addressing these topics, Williams presents his synthesis of three decades of research and creative thought which have contributed greatly to evolutionary biology in this century.

About the Author

George C. Williams is recognized internationally as a leader in the study of evolutionary biology. He is the author of *Adaptation and Natural Selection* and *Sex and Evolution*, and has served on the faculty of the State University of New York, Stony Brook, since 1960, where he is currently Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolution in the Division of Biological Sciences.

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