Preface

Evolutionary Analysis is for undergraduates majoring in the life sciences. We assume that readers have completed much or all of their introductory coursework and are beginning to explore in more detail particular areas of biology that are relevant to their personal and professional lives.

We expect our readers to pursue careers in a diversity of fields, including medicine, education, environmental management and conservation, journalism, biotechnology, and research. We therefore attempt, throughout the book, to show the relevance of evolution to all of biology and to real-world problems.

Our primary goal is to encourage readers to think like scientists. We present evolutionary biology not as a collection of facts but as an ongoing research effort. When exploring an issue, we begin with questions. Where did HIV come from? Why did prairie chicken populations continue to decline despite successful efforts to restore their habitat? How closely related are humans and chimpanzees? We use such questions to motivate discussions of background information and theory. These discussions enable us to frame alternative hypotheses, consider how they can be tested, and make predictions. We then present and analyze data, consider its implications, and highlight new questions for future research. The analytical and technical skills readers learn from this approach are broadly applicable, and will stay with them long after the details of particular examples have faded.

Consistent with our presentation of evolutionary biology as a dynamic research enterprise, we have tried to keep our coverage as up-to-date as possible. This has made the fourth edition as exciting to work on—and as daunting—as the first three. Many of the fields we cover are advancing at a rate we would not have dreamed possible just a few years ago. More than once our editors have had to tear chapter manuscripts from our hands while there were still more changes we wanted to make.

There is something new in every chapter. Among the new examples we are most excited about are these:

- Evidence that disease progression in HIV patients results, in part, from evolution of the viral population toward greater competititve fitness (Chapter 1).
- Population-genetic data indicating that heterozygotes survived an epidemic of spongy brain disease at a higher rate than homozygotes (Chapter 6).
- A demonstration that the substitution of one allele for another at a single locus can dramatically alter a flower's appeal to different pollinators (Chapter 9).
- Data suggesting that the frequency of Apert syndrome in human populations reflects selection at the level of stem cells in tissues acting in oppostion to selection at the level of individuals in populations (Chapter 10).
- Results showing that female crickets scent-mark their mates to avoid copulating twice with the same male (Chapter 11).

- Common-garden experiments revealing that an invasive plant evolved greater weediness when released from a life-history trade-off (Chapter 13).
- Documentation that a change in the phenotype of a plant resulted from a change in gene regulation (Chapter 15).
- Phylogenetic evidence that viruses played a key role in the transition from RNA World to DNA world, and in the origin of the three domains of life (Chapter 17).
- New insights into the evolution of the tetrapod limb from both developmental genetics and a recently discovered transistional fossil (Chapter 19).

We encourage readers to check the literature for new developments that have been reported since the book went to press; there are sure to be many.

Two trends we have witnessed since the first edition are reflected in changes to the table of contents. First, phylogenies have grown so central to research in evolution that we felt we had to introduce tree thinking much earlier in the book. We have therefore moved Estimating Evolutionary Trees into Unit 1, where it has become Chapter 4. Second, the Human Genome Project and the technologies it fostered have ignited an explosion of genomic data. Comparative analyses of whole genomes have yielded startling insights into the evolutionary process. To convey some of the excitement of this new frontier, we have added a chapter on Phylogenomics and the Molecular Basis of Adaptation. As Chapter 15, it concludes Unit 3.

There are four units in all:

- **Part I, Introduction**, shows that evolution is relevant outside books and classrooms, establishes the fact of evolution with a mixture of classical and recent evidence, presents natural selection as an observable process, and develops modern methods for reconstructing evolutionary trees.
- **Part II, Mechanisms of Evolutionary Change**, develops the theoretical underpinnings of modern evolutionary biology by exploring how mutation, selection, migration, and drift produce evolutionary change.
- **Part III, Adaptation**, introduces a variety of methods for studying adaptation, and offers detailed accounts of research in sexual selection, kin selection, life history evolution, and Darwinian medicine.
- **Part IV, The History of Life**, begins with an analysis of speciation. It then considers the origin of life, the universal phylogeny, and major events in the history of multicellular organisms. Because of its importance for understanding macroevolution, our chapter on Development and Evolution is part of this unit. The unit and book end with human evolution.

Most chapters include boxes that cover special topics or methods, provide more detailed analyses, or offer derivations of equations. All chapters end with a set of questions that encourage readers to review the material, apply concepts to new issues, and explore the primary literature.

Additional Resources for Instructors and Students

The new edition of *Evolutionary Analysis* offers an Instructor Resource Center on CD containing all of the line art, tables, and all photos from the book in both JPEG and PowerPoint® files. All presentation art has been carefully modified for optimal visibility when projected. An unlabeled version of the line art is also included to facilitate customization.

The student Companion Website for *Evolutionary Analysis* has again been revised and updated. This website is accessible through the book's homepage at:

www.prenhall.com/freeman

It features carefully crafted chapter study quizzes that offer elaborate instructional feedback. These quizzes are designed to increase understanding of the underlying concepts of each chapter as well as prepare students for taking tests. Activities such as simulations and case studies challenge students to pose questions, formulate hypotheses, design experiments, analyze data, and draw conclusions. Many of these activities accompany downloadable software programs that allow students to conduct their own virtual investigations. The Companion Website also offers the answers to the end-of-chapter questions and weblinks to other evolution-related sites.

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