
Preface to the second edition

The advances made by experimental evolution in the last decade provided the main reason for revising *Selection*. In the course of revising it, however, the text changed so much that what has emerged is for the most part a new book. The first edition was written from a conviction that selection is a subject unto itself, the basis of a distinct kind of science that requires a separate treatment. To make it accessible to undergraduates, it was organized into sections with declarative headings, written as continuous prose with all the academic furniture relegated to boxes, eschewed mathematical and quantitative arguments, and was twinned with an undergraduate version. The conviction remains, but the format has been abandoned. The second edition is organized in a more conventional manner, gives a much more quantitative treatment, and even makes modest use of 'the awesome power of population genetics' (B. Charlesworth), at least where this yields simple rules and verifiable predictions. I hope that it will provide a useful

guide to what we know about the mechanism of evolution.

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For many are called, but few are chosen. Matthew 22:14