

Preface and acknowledgements

I had great difficulty finding a title for this book. For long, the working title was *Genetic Variation and Extinction*. However, this title implies a causal and simple relationship between genetic variation and extinction. I do think that the study of genetic variation is extremely important for conservation biology but, as will become apparent while reading the text, I am not as sure that this relationship is as simple and straightforward as I thought when I began this voyage. I then started to think of alternatives and found two: *Evolutionary Conservation Biology* and *Conservation Biology and Evolution*. Of these, the first one has already been used for the volume edited by Ferriere *et al.* (2004) and I was not happy with the other one. This book is about conservation biology, so the first part is fine, but by using the word *Evolution* in the title I would have had to put more emphasis on the history of life on Earth and on how genetic diversity has evolved on the planet Earth. That is not a topic of this book and therefore I preferred to use the word *Evolutionary*, which implies that evolutionary theory and thinking in a more general sense are a large part of the book. One early morning and during the final stages of writing, I woke up and I decided that the title should be *Conservation and Evolutionary Biology*. However, conservation biology is more than what is covered by this book. What I have done in the following is an attempt to cover the evolutionary aspects of the genetic parts of conservation biology; there are no attempts to review the issues of, for example, habitat management, restoration projects, and the socioeconomic aspects conservation. The final decision on the title was therefore *Evolutionary Conservation Genetics*.

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Jacob Höglund
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