

Biased Embryos and Evolution

What determines the direction of evolutionary change?

This book provides a revolutionary answer to this question. Many biologists, from Darwin's day to our own, have been satisfied with the answer, "natural selection". Professor Wallace Arthur is not. He takes the controversial view that biases in the ways that embryos can be altered are just as important as natural selection in determining the directions that evolution has taken, including the one that led to the origin of humans. This argument forms the core of the book. However, in addition, the book summarizes other important issues relating to how embryonic (and post-embryonic) development evolves.

Written in an easy, conversational style, this is the first book for students and the general reader that provides an account of the exciting new field of Evolutionary Developmental Biology ("Evo-Devo" to its proponents).

'This is probably the most accessible, well-written and interesting book on evolution that I've read for a long time... It is amusing, it is provocative, it is insightful, but basically it is a terrific read.'

Professor Kenneth McNamara, Western Australian Museum, Perth

'... extremely well written... The author brings his enthusiasm to the pages... there is both remarkable historical depth and leading edge discussion of various interesting concepts.'

Professor David Rollo, McMaster University, Ontario

'In this intelligently provocative book Wallace Arthur argues that 'developmental bias' acts jointly with natural selection in the evolutionary process. Around this controversial core concept Arthur builds a very readable introduction to the new research field of evolutionary developmental biology.'

Professor Alessandro Minelli, University of Padova, Italy

Professor Wallace Arthur is in the Zoology Department at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

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