



David Briggs is Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, and has a lifelong interest in conservation, evolution, genetics and taxonomy. He has co-authored *Plant Variation and Evolution*, also by Cambridge University Press, now in its third edition.

Cover illustration (front): the National Trust Wicken Fen Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire, photographed in 1988. Adventurers' Fen was requisitioned for arable agriculture in World War II. When this area was handed back to the Trust, it was restored to create the mere, reed beds and wet meadows; (back): the Stanton Ironworks, Derbyshire, photographed in 1950, was closed in 2007. The creation of a new village, with landscaped parks and lakes, has been proposed. © The Library of the Unit for Landscape Modelling, University of Cambridge, UK.

As human activities increasingly domesticate the Earth's ecosystems, new selection pressures are acting to produce winners and losers amongst our wildlife. With particular emphasis on plants, Briggs examines the implications of human influences on micro-evolutionary processes in different groups of organisms, including wild, weedy, invasive, feral and endangered species. Using case studies from around the world, he argues that Darwinian evolution is ongoing. He considers how far it is possible to conserve endangered species and threatened ecosystems through management, and questions the extent to which damaged landscapes and their plant and animal communities can be recreated or restored precisely. Many of Darwin's ideas are highlighted, including his insights into natural selection, speciation, the vulnerability of rare organisms, the impact of invasive species and the effects of climate change on organisms. This is a thought-provoking text for students and researchers of evolution, conservation, climate change and sustainable use of resources.

Particular highlights include:

- An assessment of how neo-Darwinian concepts impact on the theory and practice of conservation in the context of climate change, alerting the reader to the implications of this novel approach.
- Background information on basic elements of genetics, molecular methods, climate change, ecology and population biology, with particular reference to plants, which serves as a useful guide for students.
- Case studies from many different countries, which make the book globally relevant.

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