

'Why did so many of the greatest intellects fail, while Darwin and myself hit upon the solution of this problem? . . . First (and most important, as I believe), in early life both Darwin and myself became ardent beetle-hunters.'

Alfred R. Wallace, from acceptance speech on receiving the Darwin-Wallace medal, 1908



'I am a socialist because I believe that the highest law for mankind is justice.'

Alfred R. Wallace, *My life: a record of events and opinions*

These quotations indicate at once the two driving passions in the life of Alfred Russel Wallace—his fascination with the natural world, and his deep sense of social justice. They ramified into his many works and achievements, and made him, by the end of his life, as famous in Victorian society as the now iconic Charles Darwin.

Natural Selection and Beyond is a remarkable collection of essays, most of them specially commissioned, which consider in depth aspects of the life and work of the co-discoverer of natural selection. Introduced by Peter Bowler and Lord Cranbrook, and with contributions from twenty-three other distinguished scholars and scientists, the many facets of Wallace's life and thought are at last brought together to produce an engaging and scholarly assessment of Wallace as scientist and socialist, as an astonishingly prolific collector and naturalist, and an influential thinker who questioned the materialism and capitalism that dominated Victorian society.

'These sparkling essays throw light on every aspect of Alfred Russel Wallace's richly varied intellectual adventures. For too long obscured by Charles Darwin's shadow, Wallace was a truly remarkable naturalist. In a brilliant flash of insight he came up with the idea of evolution by natural selection, and his contact with Darwin not only led to the famous joint paper announcing evolutionary theory in 1858 but also to publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Wallace could so easily have become an eminent Victorian. Yet his radical views took him outside the scientific mainstream. From spirit photographs to ardent beetle-collecting, this sprightly volume offers a unique perspective on one of the founders of evolutionary theory and opens up the other side of Victorian science.'

Janet Browne, author of the 2-volume biography, *Charles Darwin*

'Alfred Russel Wallace, perhaps the greatest field biologist of the 19th century, has long been famous (among science historians) for being unfamous to the general public. Popular understanding tends to simplify, and when it simplified "Darwinism," Wallace disappeared from the picture. He and his revolutionary work, his courageous travels, his eclectic portfolio of interests and ideas should be better known by everyone. I hope this richly various collection of articles, expertly edited by Smith and Beccaloni, will help to bring a complicated man the recognition he deserves.'

David Quammen, author of *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*

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