

"Here's the physical world of plants in all its splendor—and multidimensionality—brought to bear on the rich diversity of both extant and extinct forms. Niklas and Spatz's theme, which deserves attention, is that since plants (and animals, of course) cannot change physics, physical laws and processes must bear strongly on the course of their evolution."

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"Karl J. Niklas and Hanns-Christof Spatz have written a remarkable book, unique in the field of biomechanics. Starting from basic physical principles, it explains a wide range of phenomena in plants, from fluid transport to the dispersal of seeds in air and water to structural behavior. The experimental and theoretical tools described provide a useful primer. A valuable reference for researchers interested in how plants work from a physical perspective."

LORNA GIBSON, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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