
Book Reviews

Harris, C. L.: Evolution: Genesis and Revelations. With Readings from Empedocles to Wilson. Albany: State University of New York Press 1981. 339 pp., 4 figs., 8 tabs. Soft bound \$ 9.95.

The original objective of this book was to present "an exposition of the development of theories of the origin of species, emphasizing the creativity of the individual scientist under the influence of his culture". According to this conception the author gives a comprehensive history of evolutionism, combining primary source readings (from Empedocles, Plato and Aristotle to Haldane, Lysenko and Wilson) with lucid background information, in order to provide a basic understanding of the ways scientists have arrived at modern views of evolution. The major contributors to the theory of evolutionism have been described by placing them in the context of the general cultural influences to which they were exposed. Therefore, this book is as much about the evolution of science as it is about the science of evolution.

The philosophy of biology includes a continuing evaluation of man's place in nature. Thus, the discussion of evolutionary questions requires not only scientific knowledge of man's origins, but philosophical understanding as well. Consequently, each chapter contains an explanation of the philosophical basis of the scientific approach of the period in question. The book has been divided into nine chapters and

an appendix consisting of extensive "Notes" summarized for each chapter separately. These "Notes" include supplementary comments, further literature and additional detailed explanations.

The chapter-headings – 1. Prescientific concepts of the origin of species: genesis; 2. The origin of science: ancient Greece; 3. The infanticide of science: Rome and the middle ages; 4. Born again: the revival of science in the Renaissance; 5. The genesis of evolutionism: the French phase; 6. The genesis of evolutionism: The British phase; 7. Darwin and Wallace: evolutionary convergence; 8. Darwinism is dead: long live Neo-Darwinism and 9. Modern times: Marxism, Lysenkoism and Sociobiology – give a sufficient insight into the content of the book. Thus, further explanations concerning the material of the different chapters may be omitted in this book review.

A gigantic list of references (nearly 800 titles!) provides the reader with the possibility for advanced and extended studies.

Finally, I want to characterize this book as especially useful for teaching-purposes and stimulating and exciting for all readers with an interest in evolution and in the philosophical aspects of evolutionary questions.

This recommendation can be given without any restriction.

M. Hühn, Kiel

Announcements

Second International Colloquium on Endocytobiology

The next International Colloquium on Endosymbiosis and Cell Research will take place from 10 to 15 April 1983 at the Free University of Berlin (West). The primary aim of the meeting is to show that the exploration of endosymbiotic adaptations will provide insight into the mechanisms of eukaryotic cell evolution.

In addition, the possibilities of colonizing agricultural plants with endosymbionts will be discussed.

The colloquium will have 5 sessions:

- 1) Coevolution of cellular genomes and viral systems,
- 2) Coevolution of cellular genomes and plasmones (mosaic evolution),

- 3) Phylogeny of unicellular organisms (participating in endocytobiosis),
- 4) Coevolution of host and endocytobiont genomes (gene transfer),
- 5) Physiological and biochemical adaptations in endocytobiosis (intracellular ecosystems).

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