Lewontin, R.C.; Moore, J.A.; Provine, W.B.; Wallace, B. (eds): Dobzhansky's Genetics of Natural Populations. I-XLIII. New York: Columbia University Press 1981. xiv+942 pp., several figs., several tabs. Hard bound $ 42.50.

A cornerstone in modern evolutionary genetics is the series "The Genetics of Natural Populations" by Dobzhansky and twenty-two of his collaborators, published between 1937 and 1975.

The present book reproduces these 43 articles. Three of the four editors of this volume are former students and long-time collaborators of Dobzhansky. Therefore, they are able to set these papers in a critical perspective and to provide interesting historical explanations and comments. W.B. Provine begins by presenting a detailed description of the historic development of Dobzhansky's ideas on genetic variation which are reflected in these papers named "Origins of the Genetics of Natural Populations Series". The latter is a critical discussion of the origin of the series from the standpoint of an historian of science. In addition, this article discusses the role played by the interaction of Dobzhansky with A. Sturtevant and S. Wright.

The reproduction of the 43 articles is supplemented by an introduction "The Scientific Work of Th. Dobzhansky" by R.C. Lewontin.

Each of the 43 articles is preceded by an extensive description of the scientific aim of the paper and the historical circumstances. Critical comments on each paper are given which relate the papers in the series to one another and to other works of Dobzhansky.

Several indexes at the end of the book (Literature cited in the "Genetics of Natural Populations" Series, Bibliography, Index to Authors cited in the Series, general index) facilitate the reader's possibility for extended and detailed studies.

Because the papers of "The Genetics of Natural Populations" are well-known to all scientists working in the field of evolutionary genetics, we will give no further comments and references in this book review concerning the content and classification of the single papers.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that this volume contains many photographs which give the reader a notion of the places where Dobzhansky and his colleagues did their collecting and performed their field experiments. The photographs are intended to illustrate the general habitat. Some photographs of Dobzhansky and some of the individuals mentioned in Provine's essay are included.

This collection of the papers, the historical comments and the critical discussions will be highly welcomed by all those interested in the genetics of populations and its relations to evolution.

Finally, the reviewer would like to refer to an extensive review of this same book by Sewall Wright, published in Evolution 36 (5), 1982, pp. 1102–1106. S. Wright himself collaborated with Dobzhansky in five papers of this series. Therefore, in my opinion, no scientist will be more appropriate than this excellent pioneer in genetics and evolution to review this famous and important series of papers on evolutionary genetics. To his comments and discussions there is nothing to add.

M. Huehn, Kiel