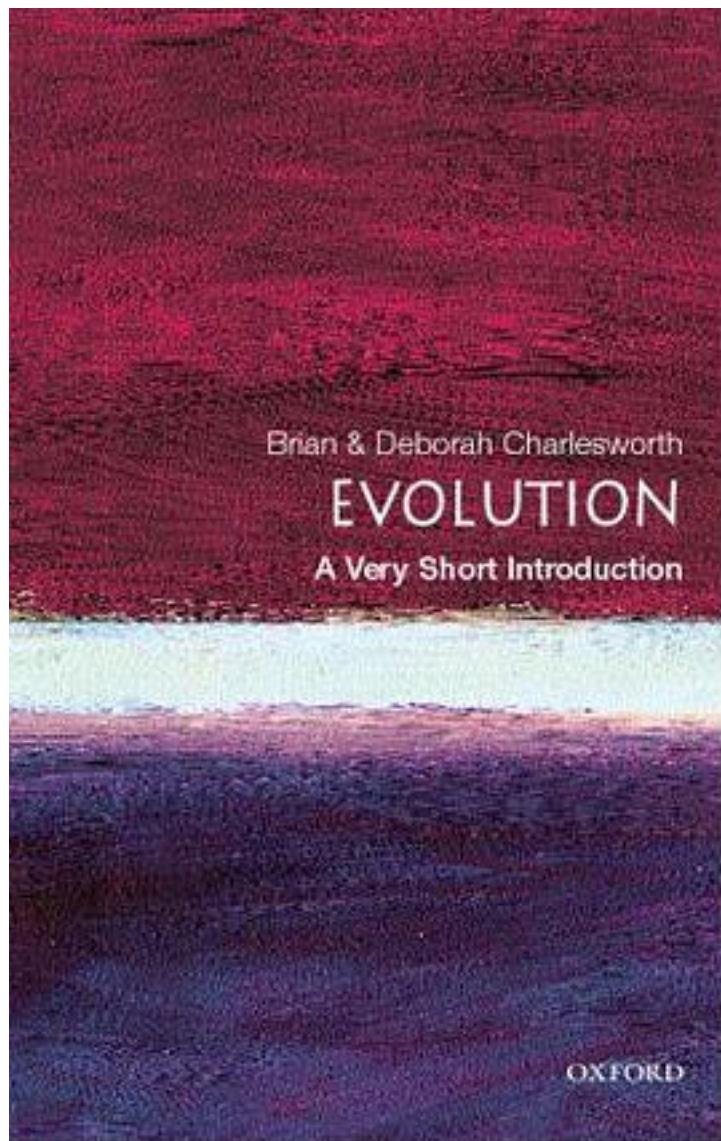


Evolution: A Very Short Introduction



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著者:Brian Charlesworth

出版者:Oxford University Press

出版时间:2003-6

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780192802514

- Introduces in a clear and concise way the most important basic findings and procedures of evolutionary biology
- Looks at the evidence for evolution, eg the fossil record, the distribution of species, the similarities and differences between organisms
- A section at the end looks at the seemingly difficult problems for the theory of evolution
- Explains adaptation and natural selection
- Essential for school and undergraduate students studying evolution

Less than 450 years ago, all European scholars believed that the earth was the centre of a universe that was at most a few million miles in extent, and that the planets, sun, and stars all rotated around this centre. Less than 250 years ago, they believed that the universe was created essentially in its present state about 6000 years ago. Less than 150 years ago, the special creation by God of living species was still dominant.

The relentless application of the scientific method of inference from experiment and observation, without reference to religious, or governmental authority has completely transformed our view of our origins and relation to the universe, in less than 500 years. Few would dispute that this programme has been spectacularly successful, particularly in the twentieth century.

This book is about the crucial role of evolutionary biology in transforming our view of human origins and relation to the universe, and the impact of this idea on traditional philosophy and religion. The purpose of this book is to introduce the general reader to some of the most important basic findings, concepts, and procedures of evolutionary biology, as it has developed since the first publications of Darwin and Wallace on the subject, over 140 years ago. Evolution provides a unifying set of principals for the whole of biology; it also illuminates the relation of human beings to the universe and each other. In addition, many aspects of evolution have practical importance; for instance, the rapid evolution of resistance by bacteria to antibiotics and of HIV to antiviral drugs are pressing medical problems.

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标签

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科普

Evolution

进化论

英文原版

牛津通识读本

演化

Oxford

评论

QH 367 .C465 2003

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书评

严格来说，进化论并不是一个严密的、有足够证据可以让其自圆其说的学术流派，虽然退一步而言，它确实是目前为止相对最合理的用于生命起源与演化的学说，但是进化论存在着许多悬而未决的问题，尤其是它用以建立论点所使用的太多论据，其实是基于“必要条件”的逻辑，而非“充分…

#7分#

整体来看还是一本比较轻松有趣的小册子。虽然作者在大部分问题上都是蜻蜓点水、一带而过，但毕竟是通识读本，目标是帮助读者在high level层面对进化有一个整体的了解，而非面面俱到对诸多细节均有深入的了解。什么是进化，进化在宏观和微观上都有哪些证据，进化解决了什...

译林出版社翻译了牛津大学出版社2003年出版的《进化》（Evolution: A Very Short Introduction）一书，我由衷感到高兴。能够被邀请作序，虽诚惶诚恐，也深感荣幸，权且当作是一次学习的经历，因此通读了译稿，写下几句读书心得，与读者分享。这是一本扼要介绍有关生物进化...

文章偏学术一些，翻译不是很通顺，有的地方比较敷衍，没有考虑读者的感受。但内容还是很不错的，令人眼界大开。进化是对人类发展产生了重大影响的学说。它导致了人类认识世界和自身的革命。影响到几乎地球上的每一个人。它让人们认识到，世界是在不断变化发展演变的，一刻不...

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