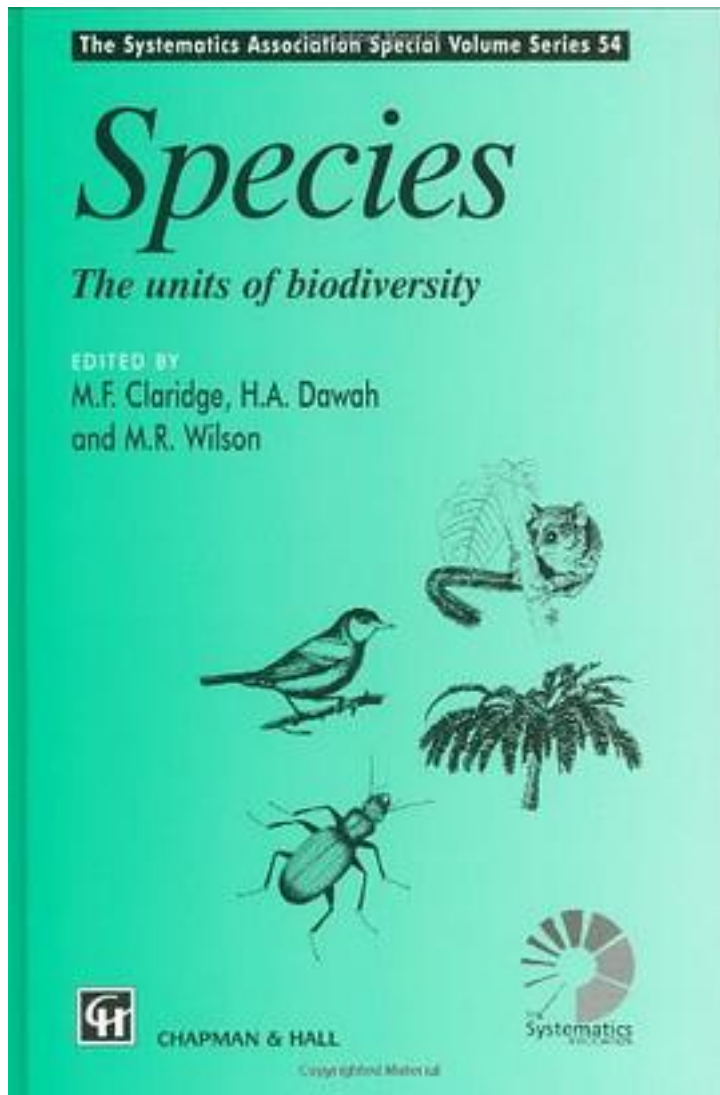


Species



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著者:John S. Wilkins

出版者:University of California Press

出版时间:2009-9-8

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780520260856

The complex idea of 'species' has evolved over time, yet its meaning is far from resolved. This comprehensive work takes a fresh look at an idea central to the field of biology by tracing its history from antiquity to today. John S. Wilkins explores the essentialist view, a staple of logic from Plato and Aristotle through the Middle Ages to fairly recent times, and considers the idea of species in natural history - a concept often connected to reproduction. Tracing 'generative conceptions' of species back through Darwin to Epicurus, Wilkins provides a new perspective on the relationship between philosophical and biological approaches to this concept. He also reviews the array of current definitions. "Species" is a benchmark exploration and clarification of a concept fundamental to the past, present, and future of the natural sciences.

作者介绍:

John S. Wilkins is Research Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Sydney. He is the author of "Defining Species: A Sourcebook from Antiquity to Today".

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