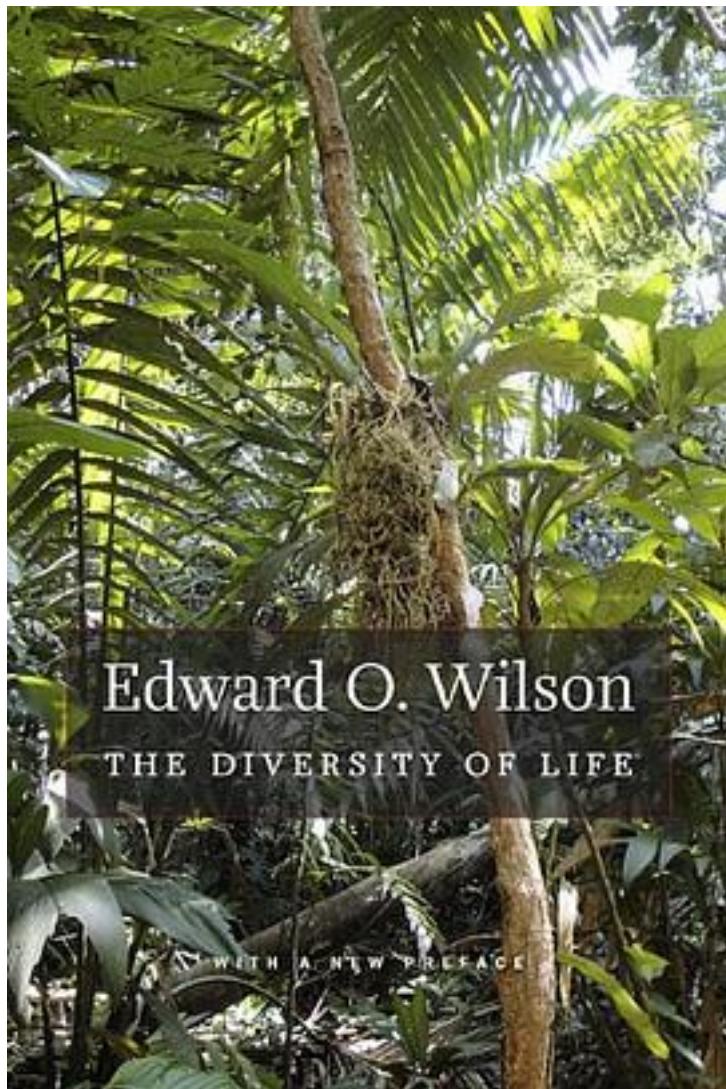


The Diversity of Life



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著者:Edward O. Wilson

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View a collection of videos on Professor Wilson entitled "On the Relation of Science and the Humanities" "In the Amazon Basin the greatest violence sometimes begins as a flicker of light beyond the horizon. There in the perfect bowl of the night sky, untouched by light from any human source, a thunderstorm sends its premonitory signal and begins a slow journey to the observer, who thinks: the world is about to change." Watching from the edge of the Brazilian rain forest, witness to the sort of violence nature visits upon its creatures, Edward O. Wilson reflects on the crucible of evolution, and so begins his remarkable account of how the living world became diverse and how humans are destroying that diversity. Wilson, internationally regarded as the dean of biodiversity studies, conducts us on a tour through time, traces the processes that create new species in bursts of adaptive radiation, and points out the cataclysmic events that have disrupted evolution and diminished global diversity over the past 600 million years. The five enormous natural blows to the planet (such as meteorite strikes and climatic changes) required 10 to 100 million years of evolutionary repair. The sixth great spasm of extinction on earth--caused this time entirely by humans--may be the one that breaks the crucible of life. Wilson identifies this crisis in countless ecosystems around the globe: coral reefs, grasslands, rain forests, and other natural habitats. Drawing on a variety of examples such as the decline of bird populations in the United States, the extinction of many species of freshwater fish in Africa and Asia, and the rapid disappearance of flora and fauna as the rain forests are cut down, he poignantly describes the death throes of the living world's diversity--projected to decline as much as 20 percent by the year 2020. All evidence marshaled here resonates through Wilson's tightly reasoned call for a spirit of stewardship over the world's biological wealth. He makes a plea for specific actions that will enhance rather than diminish not just diversity but the quality of life on earth. Cutting through the tangle of environmental issues that often obscure the real concern, Wilson maintains that the era of confrontation between forces for the preservation of nature and those for economic development is over; he convincingly drives home the point that both aims can, and must, be integrated. Unparalleled in its range and depth, Wilson's masterwork is essential reading for those who care about preserving the world biological variety and ensuring our planet's health.

作者介绍:

爱德华·威尔逊 (Edward O. Wilson)

- ◎ 最具文采的科学家
- ◎ 最博学多识的作家
- ◎ “最后的博物学家”

生于1929

年，当今美国生物学界的翘楚，美国国家科学院院士，世界上最有影响力的科学家之一。“生物社会学”之父，“生物多样性”概念提出者。目前是哈佛大学比较动物学博物馆昆虫馆的名誉馆长兼荣誉研究教授。

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多个国际性奖项，包括美国的国家科学奖、瑞典皇家科学院颁发的克拉福德奖、日本的国际生物奖。1996年，被《时代》杂志评为对当代美国影响最大的25位美国人之一。他热心投身环保事业，曾获世界自然基金会颁发的金质奖章、美国奥杜邦学会颁发的奥杜邦奖章等。

威尔逊非常擅长著述，文笔优美，有30余部著作，先后以《论人性》和《蚂蚁》两度获得普利策奖。

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评论

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书评

原作把环境与生物演化的关系表述得清晰、透彻，有跨越时空的价值。配图也恰当、有趣，唯有翻译太拖后腿。有人误以为这种翻译风格专业性太强。其实是翻译专业性太弱，才把原本明白晓畅的科普文生生弄得难以理解了。书评第一位已经指出了很多翻译错误。这里再补充几个地方，都是...

只有在看了E.O.Wilson的《生命的多样性》之后才能理解这部纪录片《地球脉动》的含义，生命的多样性需要人类的努力，按照Wilson的转述，每一级食物链上，只能利用上一级别的能源转化的10%。

而人类活动不光在物理距离上占据了要求了不合理的空间，因为在此同时还会破坏其他物种的...

看这本书的时候是高中。作为文科生总是对文字的表述方式很敏感。当时对翻译过来的带着文字转化中出现的特有的翻译味道特别喜欢。所以很认真的一字一句读过。差点要忘记这不是文学作品而是一本科普读物了。
看这类书的目的，不是为了积累生物学或者动植物学上的知识，而是想通...

刚要过去的5月，我去了三次上海，第二次去上海的时候，倾盆大雨，很早就到上海，很早就把事情做完了，于是想着火车站太吵，也没办法很早回来，之前在站台研究上海地铁图的时候，偶然看到上海自然博物馆就在地铁线上，离吴中路也不是特别远，回火车站也很方便，加上我觉得应该没...

可能是人在慢慢变老，心可以沉稳一些了。。。在有些情况下。所以前段时间好像就是这样，当我很纠结的翻开书页后，意外的，很快的就看完了。回想自己以往的看书速度，确实快多了。当下突然而至的这份超能力让我都有点不记得以前的慢是多么的难以克服对我的好奇心来说，这本书...

也许是翻译的缘故，有些句子很是不爽，本来就容易跑神的我看到一些古怪的词语拼凑更是浮想联翩，所以假期虽然定了定心，翻开了搁置已久的书本，仍是进行得很艰难。但是书的确是好书。。。我闻出来的~
如果能当英文阅读作消遣，那就没有这么多理解障碍了，在此稍微哀愁的叹口...

几年前读到这本书，个人感觉文字略显艰涩，不少地方需要反复咀嚼，也许是翻译的问题，但只要耐心看完，确实愉悦身心！阅读前最好先温习下物种起源等生物学基础知识，这样能有效率地阅读！作为科普读物入门书，门槛似乎高了点。

书是一本好书，不过也有些年头了，有些描述跟现在科学的进展没连上。囫囵吞枣地看了一遍，感觉不错，但还是没有能跟上作者的思考的方式——或者是翻译的问题，等有机会拿原版书来看看。

《缤纷的生命》是一部人人都能看懂的自然简史。从“狂暴的自然，坚强的生命”到“生物多样性的形成”，再到“人类造成的冲击”，跟随Edward Wilson的脚步，我们看到了自然的一系列发生、成长和更新过程，同时也看到了这个过程如何在人类活动的影响下越来越糟。“生物多样性...

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