

Evolutionary Biology: Mechanisms and Trends

Bearbeitet von
Pierre Pontarotti

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Preface

For the fifteenth time, the evolutionary biology meeting (EBM) took place at Marseilles. This international annual meeting aims at allowing scientists of different disciplines to share a deep interest in evolutionary biology concepts, applications, in order to exchange and initiate interdisciplinary collaborations.

The Evolutionary Biology Meeting at Marseilles is now recognised internationally as an important exchange platform and a booster for the use of evolutionary-based approaches in biology and also in other scientist areas.

The outputs of the meeting are evidenced by numerous collaborations initiated at the meeting and achieved by several peer-reviewed articles published over the past years.

This year, more than 100 presentations were selected by the EBM scientific committee. These presentations really reflected the epistemological positioning of the meeting. In addition, we selected 19 of the most representative ones for their publication in a dedicated book.

The book enables the reader to have an overview of the state of the art in the evolutionary biology field. The book is the fifth that we have published further to the meeting. I would like to underline that the five books are complementary to each other and should rather be considered as successive tomes.

Additionally, we have decided for now to include a chapter describing the life and the scientific contribution of major contributors in the field and we open the cycle with JBS Haldane.

The following articles are organised in the following categories:

New concepts in evolutionary biology

Macroevolution: mechanisms and trends

Genome evolution

I would like to thank all the authors, the meeting participants, the sponsors CNRS, Université de Provence, Conseil Général 13, Ville de Marseille, Region PACA.

I also wish to thank the Springer's edition Staff and in particular Andrea Schlitzberger for her competence and help.

I wish also to thank members of the Association pour l'Etude de l'Evolution biologique and the members of the Evolutionary Biology modelling Laboratory.

I wish to thank our former AEED coordinator Axelle Pontarotti who really makes the meeting what it is today.

Finally, I thank our new coordinator: Marie Hélène Rome for the organisation of the fifteenth Evolutionary Biology Meeting and her help with the book edition.

Marseilles, France

Pierre Pontarotti