

Sketches of Nature: A Geneticist's Look at the Biological World During a Golden Era of Molecular Ecology

John C. Avise



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This visually appealing book recounts the history of molecular ecology and evolution as seen through the personal lens of one of its most prolific practitioners, who has studied a panorama of creatures ranging from corals, sponges, and other invertebrates to a wide variety of vertebrate animals including numerous birds, mammals, herps, and fishes. The sketches are of two types: evocative drawings of the animals themselves, and more than 230 written abstracts summarizing the author's eclectic research on ecological-genetic topics spanning the microevolutionary to macroevolutionary. With the abstracts arranged by organismal group and placed in chronological order, the chapters in this book lead readers on a fascinating historical journey into the realm of molecular genetics as applied across the past four decades to intriguing questions in ecology, evolution, animal behavior, and natural history.

- Encapsulates salient genetic findings on a diverse array of creatures in nature
- Recounts the history of technological and conceptual developments in ecological genetics
- Includes approximately 80 beautiful line drawings of the animals themselves
- Provides context by preceding each abstract with an anecdote or historical backdrop
- Concludes each abstract with an addendum that further contextualizes the research findings
- Written by a world-leading authority in molecular ecology and evolution



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