

Re: Species Selection Redux

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-03/0419.html>

From: Guy Hoelzer (*hoelzer_at_unr.edu*)

Date: 03/12/05

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in article d0rc88\$1dde\$1@darwin.ediacara.org, Perplexed in Peoria at jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net wrote on 3/10/05 10:01 PM:

> "Guy Hoelzer" <hoelzer@unr.edu> wrote in message
> news:d0qtar\$17uv\$1@darwin.ediacara.org...
>> in article d0on9t\$gus\$1@darwin.ediacara.org, Perplexed in Peoria at
>> jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net wrote on 3/9/05 9:51 PM:
>>
>>> "Guy Hoelzer" <hoelzer@unr.edu> wrote in message
>>> news:d0nbfi\$1ci\$1@darwin.ediacara.org...
>>>> in article d0m6mq\$2ndm\$1@darwin.ediacara.org, Perplexed in Peoria at
>>>> jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net wrote on 3/8/05 10:56 PM:
>>>>
>>>>> "Tim Tyler" <tim@t1lock.org> wrote in message
>>>>> news:d0kipq\$2654\$1@darwin.ediacara.org...
>>>>>> bryophyta@hotmail.com <bryophyta@hotmail.com> wrote or quoted:
>>>>>> Also, it is widely expected that species selection will be a rather weak
>>>>>> force – since its effects will often be swamped by individual selection –
>>>>>> which will act to destroy some of the variation on which species
>>>>>> selection would otherwise act.
>>>>
>>>> The strength of selection at any level is always determined by the same
>>>> factor: the extent of heritable variation in fitness.
>>>
>>> I agree, but there is a need to be cautious here. In comparing fitnesses
>>> at different levels, you need to be sure you are not comparing apples
>>> and oranges. The most important thing is to be sure that you are using
>>> the same time scale in both cases. You can't naively take fitness to be a
>>> growth rate per generation but use organism generations in one case and
>>> species generations in another.