

Re: Most Important Unsolved Problems?

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- *From:* "John Edser" <edser@xxxxxxxxxx>
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feedbackdroids@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:--

JE:--

What constitutes a heritable maximand within biology? (A maximand is something that without exception, is always maximized within the

limits

available to it).

Is it also fair to say that another similar unanswered question is: why

are

there so many "unmaximized" traits? Why aren't most animals omnivores,

for

example?

JE:--

Specialist verses generalist. Carnivores and vegetarians are specialist eaters requiring different digestive and prey seeking apparatus. OTOH omnivores are generalists. If you specialize more and more you obtain the benefit of greater and greater efficiency but risk becoming extinct as things change. OTOH, if you do not specialize your risk of extinction may be reduced but this may be costing you efficiency. Selection has to balance both because nature cannot evolve a living system that does both equally well.

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This is kind of a naive question from an engineer, and not an evolutionist, but does anyone SERIOUSLY think that evolved biological systems are actually "optimized" or maximized" in many ways? Even to the casual observer, they appear to be cobbled together out of reused parts, more than evolved to any semblance of optimality. Take almost any part of any organism and analyze it for "optimal design". Evolution is a tinkerer, not a designer. No?

JE:–

Just a thought experiment can prove that Darwinian natural selection can be 100% stopped, if and only if, the total number of fertile forms reproduced into one population by each parent (termed Total Darwinian Fitness shortened to TDF) remains the same total for every parent within that population. Of course within nature this hardly, if ever, happens. However TDF can be held constant for every selectee within one natural population in a lab. TDF represents a refutable empirically based maximand of Darwinism which represents the only testable theory of evolution that we have. The reason why only a constant TDF can halt selection entirely is because the science of biology remains 100% based on a refutable organism assumption. One organism cycle begins exactly at one fertilized egg and finishes exactly at one fertile adult developed from that egg within sexual forms. Selection only "notices" one entire cycle and not just parts of it. The question remains how much of TDF is heritable and how is this information coded?

Gene centric Neo Darwinists refuse to recognize TDF as a valid Darwinian maximand. They appear to employ Fisher's argument which suggests that TDF cannot be heritable so therefore it cannot be selectable, i.e. they delete almost all epistatic traits like TDF as non heritable within however, just a simplified/oversimplified model. They also argue that inclusive fitness can represent a Hamiltonian maximand where what exactly constitutes fitness within W.D. Hamilton's rationale (based on Hamilton's Rule) remains ambiguous to this day. Apart from that, inclusive fitness as a maximand can only represent a relative fitness. This being the case any inclusive fitness maximand may be just a minimand depending on what it is supposed to be relative to (which of course nobody is saying). It should be evident that a maximand can only validly constitute an absolute assumption of nature such as is TDF within Darwinian biology or c within Einstein's physics, i.e. an assumption that is not relative to anything. Please note that an absolute assumption is not just an absolute dictate. This is because an absolute assumption of science must be able to be empirically refuted, i.e. be able to be fully tested against nature. This excludes testing just using fictitious data run on a computer simulation, i.e. what has become known as "insilico".

Regards,

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