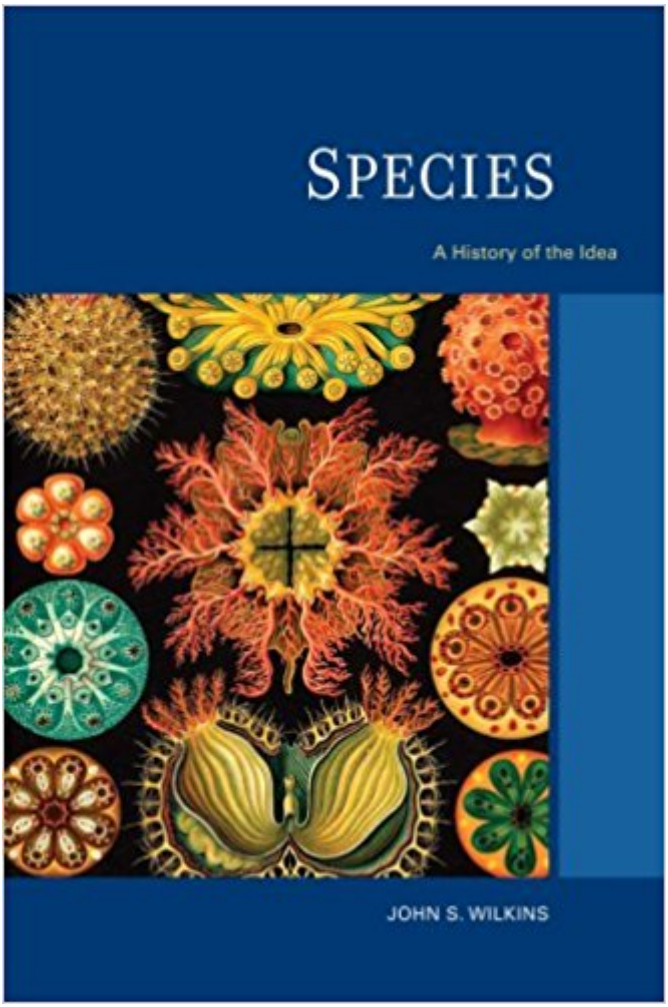
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Species: A History Of The Idea (Species And Systematics)



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

The complex idea of “speciesÃ¢â ¬Â• has evolved over time, yet its meaning is far from resolved. This comprehensive work takes a fresh look at an idea central to the field of biology by tracing its history from antiquity to today. John S. Wilkins explores the essentialist view, a staple of logic from Plato and Aristotle through the Middle Ages to fairly recent times, and considers the idea of species in natural history—a concept often connected to reproduction. Tracing “generative conceptionsÃ¢â ¬Â• of species back through Darwin to Epicurus, Wilkins provides a new perspective on the relationship between philosophical and biological approaches to this concept. He also reviews the array of current definitions. Species is a benchmark exploration and clarification of a concept fundamental to the past, present, and future of the natural sciences.

Book Information

Series: Species and Systematics (Book 1)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; Reprint edition (November 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520271394

ISBN-13: 978-0520271395

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,946,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Taxonomic Classification #8795 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Evolution #9066 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > History & Philosophy

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“The most comprehensive, encyclopedic account of the history of the thinking about species. . . . Truly impressive.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Science & Education 2012-04-10)Ã¢â ¬Å“The most comprehensive work of its kind. It will appeal to students in a diverse set of disciplines. . . . Highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Choice 2010-07-08)Ã¢â ¬Å“Provides a comprehensive and interesting synthesis of the species problem today in the context of changing ideologies through history.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Journal Of Human Evolution Blog 2010-07-06)Ã¢â ¬Å“Provides a thorough background in this important topic. . . . A valuable resource.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Nsta Recommends 2009-12-09)Ã¢â ¬Å“No other book provides this kind of comprehensive, historical account of the

thinking about species. As reference work, this book is impressive." (IntÃ¢â ¬â„¢l History, Philosophy, & Science Teaching Group Newsletter 2012-04-23)Ã¢â ¬Å“A useful source for literature, ideas, and history of the topic.Ã¢â ¬Â• (James Mallet Integrative & Comparative Bio (Sicb) 2010-07-23)Ã¢â ¬Å“Provides an encyclopedic history of the idea of species from Plato to the present.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Darwinian Conservatism Blog 2009-09-17)Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] congenial book.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Oxford Journal 2011-04-12)

"Few topics have engaged biologists and philosophers more than the concept of species, and arguably no idea is more important for evolutionary science. John S. Wilkins' book combines meticulous historical and philosophical analysis and thus provides new insights on the development of this most enduring of subjects."—Joel Cracraft, American Museum of Natural History"This is not the potted history that one usually finds in texts and review articles. It is a fresh look at the history of a field central to biology, but one whose centrality has changed in scope over the centuries. Wilkins' book will be a standard source for all kinds of people working in systematics. There is not another book on the subject, amazingly enough, and his perspective is so comprehensive and well-taught that it will replace any standard review articles and older histories."—Kevin Padian, University of California, Berkeley"An essential sourcebook for anyone interested in the species problem and the history of 'species.' Wilkins does a wonderful job detangling the various uses of 'species.' His book brings clarity to a topic marked by confusion and ambiguity."—Marc Ereshefsky, author of The Poverty of Linnaean Hierarchy: A Philosophical Study of Biological Taxonomy

I'm not a biologist or a philosopher but I found this book extremely interesting and it helped me with a couple of questions that I have been thinking about. Not by _answering_ them, of course, but by bringing up new questions.I wanted some clues to the question of whether the red wolf of North America is a species or simply a hybrid between the coyote and the gray wolf. Wilkins didn't address this question directly, as who would expect him to. However, he did mention that a species _could_ arize through hybridization, or at least it could under some definitions of species.And I wanted to know if grizzly bear is the name of a sub-species of brown bear or simply a descriptive term for those brown bears who live in the uplands of the new world. Wilkins didn't address this question directly but it was clear to me after reading his book that grizzly bear cannot be the name of a sub-species unless they all derive from one population of coastal/lowland brown bears. If several populations of lowland brown bears each gave rise to a population of upland bears in the

nearest high country, as I think may be true, then they are not a subspecies.In general, Wilkins discussed the history of the term species, beginning with the ancients who used the term for varieties of mineral as well as life forms, up to the present. He was willing to take on authority figures in the field. He seems to believe that species are real, in that one can observe them, and that the conept is useful, although not rock-solid.He didn't waste a great deal of time on trivial matters of human origins. And his use of the language was fine,although he is an Australian.

If you are looking for a fast and easy reading book that concludes with a contemporary definition of the term "species," Species a History of the Idea is not the book for you.If you are looking for a detailed history of all the major and minor players with their contributions in the search for essence of the term "species," Species a History of the Idea is definitely the book for you.The following quote from the Preface is illustrative of the overall style of the book:"In summary, then, we have three claims that this book is intended to demonstrate: the logical and natural species are distinct ideas that largely share only a term; there was a single species `concept' from antiquity to the arrival of genetics, the generative conception; and types are neither the same as essences nor something that changes much with Darwin."While the reading is difficult, the material is an indispensible resource in the forensic search for the historical essence of the term "species."Richard William NelsonDarwin, Then and Now: The Most Amazing Story in the History of Science

Wilkins takes us through a time journey from the age of the early Greek philosophers to the current era of evolutionary biology, dissecting the idea of species (and genus). This book is a must-read for those who aspire to competence in biological systematics. We are reminded of the pervasive notion of the Scala Naturae and its impact on Linnean, Lamarckian, and even contemporary thinking. This is contrasted with the unique insights of Darwin, who, according to the author, created the modern species concept while at the same time giving the impression of denying the existence of species as a special taxonomic category. The views of Dobzhansky, Mayr, and Hennig are examined in a new light. My only reason for not giving 5 stars is the occasional bad sentence. The book would have greatly benefited from a close reading by a style editor.

Download to continue reading...

Species: A History of the Idea (Species and Systematics) World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) Deck & Patio Idea Book: Outdoor RoomsÃ¢â ¬Â¢Shade and ShelterÃ¢â ¬Â¢Walkways and Pat (Taunton Home Idea Books) Dinosaur Systematics: Approaches

and Perspectives Biological Systematics: Principles and Applications, 2nd Edition Diving Beetles of the World: Systematics and Biology of the Dytiscidae Cake Idea: 101 Photo Inspiration Cake Idea A Picture Guide Book For Wedding Cake, Birthday Cake. GOOD IDEA OR GOD IDEA New Backyard Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) Patios & Walkways Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) New Front Yard Idea Book: Entries*Driveways*Pathways*Gardens (Taunton Home Idea Books) Backyard Idea Book: Outdoor Kitchens, Sheds & Storage, Fireplaces, Play Spaces, Pools & Spas (Taunton Home Idea Books) Stonescaping Idea Book (Taunton's Idea Book Series) Pool Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) Ribbon Trims: An Embellishment Idea Book (Embellishment Idea Books) Water Garden Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) All New Backyard Idea Book (Taunton's Idea Book Series) The Triune God: Systematics (Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan) Plant Systematics: A Phylogenetic Approach Plant Systematics: A Phylogenetic Approach, Third Edition

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help