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Princeton Guide to Evolution [book review]

Kevin McDonough

Northern Michigan University, kmcdonou@nmu.edu

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The Princeton Guide to Evolution

Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 2014. 853p. illus. index. \$99.00. ISBN 13: 978-0-691-14977-6.

Submitted Review:

The Princeton Guide to Evolution follows in the footsteps of The Princeton Guide to Ecology, which was released in 2009. Using the same approach, Losos (editor) has produced a book that is geared for professionals, graduate students, and those with a serious interest in evolution. Covering the breadth and depth of evolutionary biology, the Guide is divided into eight sections. The introduction, which includes four chapters, discusses the history of evolutionary thought, evidence for evolution, and the basics of genetic variation. The remaining seven chapters, spanning over 100 topics, cover the major areas of evolutionary biology, including phylogenetics; natural selection and adaptation; genes, genomes, and phenotypes; speciation and macroevolution; evolution of behavior, and evolution and modern society. Each chapter is written by a named authority in their respective fields, and are identified more fully at the beginning of the book. The chapter topics are discussed in approximately six to nine pages, and provide an outline and brief glossary at the start. Section headings help divide up the text, and a few figures are included when appropriate. Each topic includes a further reading list. A twenty-five page index concludes the book, with the only additional feature being seven colored plates. Although the topics are not written for the lay person, the authors do a good job making the content accessible to those with a modest science background. Recommended for all college and university libraries.—**Kevin McDonough**
