

Wallace and Darwin

How They Prepared and Met Challenges in Their Time

Abstract

“I begin to feel rather dissatisfaction with a mere local collection, little is to be learned by it. I should like to take some one family to study thoroughly, principally with a view to the theory of the origin of species. By that means I am strongly of opinion that some different results might be arrived at...”

You must have come across the words – “the origin of species” in the above paragraph. If you do not know where the passage came from, you might have thought it was Darwin’s words. In fact, it was not Darwin’s, but from Wallace’s letter. At the age of 24, Wallace wrote to Henry Walter Bates on 11 Oct, 1847. Wallace was preparing himself to theorize how species evolved. It was until 1905 that Wallace wrote in his autobiography, *My Life*, (Wallace, 1905, Vol. I, p 257), to comment his above quoted letter, “These extracts from my early letters to Bates suffice to show that the great problem of the origin of species was already distinctly formulated in my mind; that I was not satisfied with the more or less vague solutions at that time offered; that I believed that conception of evolution through natural law so clearly formulated in the *Vestiges** to be, so far as it went, a true one; and that I firmly believed that a full and careful study of the facts of nature would ultimately lead to a solution of the mystery.”

I put Wallace and Darwin’s early to adult life stories, in particular on how they prepared themselves to develop their species theories, and their faith journeys - how they headed in different directions during their life time together in this volume for comparisons, which reflects my understating as of 2009.

**Vestiges* is a short for “*Vestiges of the natural history of creation*”, a book by Robert Chambers, see more in this volume and also on page 92, and 153-4.

(This serves as an abstract of the volume II of the book, “Evolution Momentum”).

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Natural Selection: Wallace – Darwin Theory Evidence and Suggestion of Retro – Credit

(Submitted January 8, 2009)

Abstract

The author has found that the very idea of evolution could be traced back, at least as early as when the Book of Genesis in the Holy Bible was written (Yang, C. 2008). Some further studies have led the author to propose a theory about a theory that Natural Selection was more likely a Wallace – Darwin Theory. Here the author provides the evidence for the suggestion of giving a retro credit for Wallace’s work. The major supporting evidence for the author’s hypothesis is that the current mainstream of science community strongly holds that Wallace independently came to the same conclusion as Darwin. In addition, the author has also provided the evidence here that Wallace actually was a leader in the development of the Natural Selection theory and beyond. Wallace’s work placed him in an actual leadership position despite the fact that his social and academic status did not match it. The author reports an essential component of natural selection that would have led to the introduction of new species. The five representative works by both Darwin (1844, 1857) and Wallace (1852, 1855, and 1858) were tested, and whoever had arrived at the conclusion first would deserve to be credited as a leader in the development of the Natural Selection theory. The author found that Wallace’s 1855 paper “On the Law Which Has Regulated the Introduction of New Species” was the single most important work that changed the direction and pace of the biological research in evolution during his time.

(This serves as an abstract of the volume III of the book, “Evolution Momentum”.)

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Science and New Sciences

Identification of Academic Darwin Syndrome

Abstract

Less than a month away (from January 2009), is the two hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth (February 12). Late this year, November 24, 2009, will also be the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species". I have made an attempt to prove, through a scientific approach, that natural selection may should be retro credited as Wallace-Darwin Theory, (see Yang, C, "Natural Selection: Wallace – Darwin Theory; Evidence and Suggestion of Retro Credit", 2009). Afterwards, I searched available documents, including several books and papers by other authors who also derived their own conclusions of Darwin's scientific fraud. Mine is among the most recent and here continues the previous work that is reported. Dose the scientific community have the courage to admit the flaw of one hundred and fifty year and start heading over a right direction? Should the academic community continue to build Darwin as a perfect figure, the "idol" of evolution, or the "God" of modern biology? In this article, I have also hypothesized the existence of an Academic Darwin Syndrome (ADS), and provided the observed historical as well as contemporary evidence as a pilot study. Some higher ranked scholars / educators may be "self-serving", which has blocked some talented scientists, especially young scientists to realize their potential, and which has violated their rights to make major contributions toward the history of science, and have even brought dismay to their academic career as well as their personal life. I begin by describing the Legacy of Rosalinda Franklin (1950s), which reflects a general culture of less respectful to women scholars of that time in academia. It also demonstrates academic leadership characters of honesty and confessional by Dr. James Watson and Dr. Francis Crick et al in dealing with the Franklin controversy including DNA x-ray data over the past several decades. It is contrasting to some senior professors' failing to admit their academic misconduct and their institutional covering ups. I then trace all the way back to the stories of Alfred Russel Wallace (1850s), and Gregor Mendel (1850s). Next, some more modern events of the 1990s and early 2000s are discussed. Life is good and relatively short, no one can afford career dystrophy, as it may be too difficult to make a comeback. Scientists, as any other human beings, deserve to have their civil and human rights to be protected. The ADS is the dishonesty syndrome. When an academic educator trains young pupils to lie, or behave dishonestly, then it is concerning how our society would be shaped for future generations.

(This is an abstract of the volume IV of the book, "*Evolution Momentum*". My opinion has changed from agreeing with the mainstream as of 2009, to being significantly different from it with regarding the Watson controversy since Jan 2013. More can be read in another book, *Big and Humble*, by me in 2013.)

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Return to Nature, Return to Truth Darwin's Uncertainty of His Theory

Abstract:

Further Evidence of Wallace Theory or Wallace - Darwin Theory of Natural Selection

In this volume, I have used a simple measurement. If Darwin had held the faith of natural selection strong, with direct convincing evidence before or around 1855, he should be credited as his proprietor of the natural selection theory.

My hypothesis in this volume is that Darwin did not find any direct evidence to support his theory over a period of twenty years.

As my paper in volume III presented a conclusion that Wallace's law paper of 1855 played a key role in making history of biology, the origin of species concerning natural selection. My attention has naturally turned to on the events that occurred around 1855. Therefore, the first part of this volume is to address the status of Darwin's theory during 1854-1856. Then I made retrospective comparison on Darwin's status of his theory in 1856 with that of 1837 through 1844/1845.

There are more than enough evidences to prove that Darwin was uncertain about his theory for almost twenty years (1837-1856).

(This serves as an abstract of the volume V of the book, "Evolution Momentum".)

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