

and sparse, ecological factors like density are known to be of considerable importance in some stabilising selection situations.

Because it is one individual's view of a developing field, the book will continue to excite controversy. The closing sentence of the chapter on isolation and adaptation reads, "As a result [of the great selection pressures normally operating in nature] it is no longer possible to attribute to random genetic drift or to mutation any significant part in the control of evolution". I do not happen to be a fervent believer in the neutral-mutation theory, but it is by no means evident, on the evidence presently available, that the factors determining which alleles come to be represented in any given polymorphic or monomorphic situation are necessarily solely those of a selective nature. The only cases of which I am aware where this has been *critically* demonstrated are those involving human haemoglobins which, whilst highly informative, may not be typical. The views of Kimura and his supporters may be distasteful to many neo-Darwinians but perhaps they should not be totally rejected without more badly needed experimental evidence.

This book should be required reading for all who are in any way engaged in work in genetics or population biology.

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