

## EVOLUTION

Evolutionary biology is the study of history of life forms on earth, the evolution of life on earth, different changes in flora and fauna around earth that co-exist along with human beings also forms parts of evolution.

### Origin of life

- **Big Bang Theory** attempts to explain the origin of universe. According to this theory a huge explosion occurs that forms the different galaxies.
- In solar system of Milky Way galaxies, earth has been supposed to be formed about 4.5 billion years ago. There was no atmosphere in early earth, water vapour, methane, carbon dioxide and ammonia released from molten covered the earth surface.
- **UV rays from sun** split the water into hydrogen and oxygen. Life appeared 500 million years after the formation of earth.
- There are different theories regarding the origin of life on earth-
  - Some scientists believe that life comes from other planets. Early Greek thinkers thought that life is carried spores transferred from other planets.
  - ✓ According to other theory, life comes out of dead and decaying matters like straw and mud. This theory is called theory of spontaneous origin.
  - Louis Pasteur experimentally proved that life arises only from pre-existing life.
  - Darwin and Haldane proposed that the first form of life could have come from pre-existing non-living organic molecules like RNA and protein etc. The formation of life preceded by chemical evolution. At that time condition on earth were- high temperature, volcanic eruption, reducing atmosphere containing  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_3$ .

Miller experiment of *Origin of Life*. Si. Miller in 1953 conducted an experiment to show the origin of life on earth in the physical environment similar to condition prevails at that time.

Miller created electric discharge in a flask containing  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  and water vapour at  $800^\circ\text{C}$ . He observed formation of amino acids after 15 days in the flask.

The theory, that first form of life arose slowly through evolutionary forces from non-living molecules is called biogenesis.

### How Life forms

- Pylany, theory were proposed by different thinkers, scientists and religious literatures about the origin of different forms of life on earth. The main theories include-
  - \* Religious literatures tell us about special creation theories,

### Evidence of Evolution

Evidence that evolution of life forms has taken place on earth have many proofs as mentioned below-

1. Paleontological evidence- different aged rock sediments contain fossils of different life forms that probably died during the formation of particular sediment. [www.FirstRanker.com](http://www.FirstRanker.com)
2. Homologous organs- those organs that perform different function but have similar origin and structure are called homologous organs.

In these animal similar structure developed along different directions due to adaptation of different needs. This is called divergent evolution.

3\_ Analogous structures- they are not anatomically similar organs but perform similar function\_ This is the to habitat that resulted In similar adaptive features in different groups of organisms.. This that of evolution is called convergent evolution.

4. Evolution by natural selection.

Adaptive Radiation- the process of evolution of different species in given geographical area starting from a point and radiating to other areas of geography (habitat) is called adaptive radiation. Darwin's finches represent one of the best examples of adaptive radiation,

Biological Evolution – the nature select for fittest and fitness is based on characteristics which are inherited. Some organisms are better adapted to survive in otherwise hostile environment. Fitness is the end result of the ability to adapt and get selected by nature.

1 Lamarck had said that evolution of life form had occurred but driven by use and disuse of organs. He gave the example of giraffe to evolve their neck.

- Darwin theory of natural selection was based on certain observations, like-
  - Limited natural resources.
  - Over population
  - Struggle for existence
  - Survival of the fittest.

#### Mechanism of Evolution

- 1- Hugo de Vries based on his work on evening primrose brought forth the idea of mutation. Mutations are random and directionless while Darwin variations are small and directional\_ Hugo de Vries believed that mutation causes speciation and hence called saltation.

#### Hardy-Weinberg Principle-

- The principle states that allele frequencies in a population are stable and are constant from generation to generation\_ The gene pool remains constant. This is called genetic equilibrium and sum total of all the allelic frequencies is 1.  
 Binomial expansion of  $(p + q)^2 = p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$ . Where p and q are the frequency of different alleles\_
- When frequency is measured, the actual allele varies that indicates the extent of evolutionary changes. Change of frequency in alleles (Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium) in a population resulted due to evolution.
- The factors that affect Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium are-
  - Gene migration or gene flow
  - Genetic drift
  - Mutation
  - Genetic recombination
  - Natural selection

Sometimes change in allele frequency is so different in a sample of population that they become a different species. The original drifted population becomes founder and that effect is called founder effect\_

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#### Origin and Evolution of Man

- About 15 million years ago, primates called *Protopithecus* and *Ramapithecus* existed. They are hairy and walked like gorilla and chimpanzees. *Ramapithecus* are more man like and *Dryopithecus* are more like apes.
- The first creatures that were human like being the hominid and were called *Australopithecus* having brain capacities 650-700 cc.
- The fossils discovered in Africa in 1891 revealed the *Homo erectus* having brain about 940 cc. *Homo sapiens* arose in Africa and moved across the continent and developed into distinct races.
- During the Ice Age between 75,000 to 10,000 years ago, modern man appeared. Primitive cave art developed about 12,000 years ago and agriculture came around 10,000 years back to start human settlement.