THE ASTROBIOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

Astrobiology is an expanding, interdisciplinary field investigating the origin, evolution and future of life in the universe. Tackling many of the foundational debates of the subject, from discussions of cosmological evolution to detailed reviews of common concepts such as the ‘Rare Earth’ hypothesis, this volume is the first systematic survey of the philosophical aspects and conundrums in the study of cosmic life. The author explores the increasing number of crossover problems that highlight the relationship between astrobiology and cosmology, and presents some of the challenges of multidisciplinary study, not least prevalent misunderstandings of the fundamental ontological and epistemological assumptions about the relationship between biological complexity and its cosmological background. Modern physical theories dealing with the multiverse add a further dimension to the debate. With a selection of beautifully presented illustrations and a strong emphasis on constructing a unified methodology across disciplines, this book will appeal to graduate students and specialists who seek to rectify the fragmented nature of current astrobiological endeavour, as well as to curious astrophysicists, biologists and SETI researchers.

MILAN M. ĆIRKOVIC is a Research Professor at the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade, and a Research Associate of the Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford University. His primary research interests are in the fields of astrobiology (habitability, SETI studies, catastrophic episodes in the history of life), astrophysical cosmology (baryonic dark matter, star formation, future of the universe), as well as philosophy of science (risk analysis, observation selection effects, epistemology). He has co-authored more than a hundred research papers.
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Philosophical Foundations of the Study of Cosmic Life

MILAN M. ĆIRKOVIĆ

Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade
**Contents**

*Acknowledgements*  
page vii

Introduction  
1  
Astrobiology: ‘The Colour Out of Space?’  
The Canonical Three  
Prides and prejudices  
Copernicanism and the promise of synthesis  
2  
Cosmology, life and duration of the past  
Wallace’s valiant attempt  
Six eras and the (New) standard cosmology  
Infinite past(s) and the Davies–Tipler argument  
Time and chance: historical parallel of cosmology and astrobiology  
3  
Cosmology, life and selection effects  
Non-controversial observation selection: extrasolar planets  
Non-controversial observation selection: two examples  
Somewhat controversial observation selection: fine-tuning arguments  
Controversial observation selection: Olum’s problem  
The ‘real thing’: the astrobiological landscape  
4  
Cosmology, life and the Archipelago  
Multiverse: a universal solvent  
The Archipelago of Habitability  
A joint venture of fundamental physics and astrobiology  
On two views of anthropic reasoning: a dialogue
Contents

5 Astrobiology as a natural extension of Darwinism
   Galactic Darwinism? 108
   Replaying the replay 109
   Is convergence useful? 113
   Testing convergence 119
   A promising partnership 127

6 Rare Earths and the continuity thesis
   Rare Earth – a key piece of the landscape? 130
   Unphysical ceteris paribus 131
   Further arguments against REH 133
   The continuity thesis: ‘neither chance nor design’ 138
   Haldane’s ladder and noogenesis 144

7 SETI and its discontents
   The ‘Big Three’: classic anti-SETI arguments 148
   The argument from biological contingency 151
   Carter’s argument 156
   Beyond epistemology: the context of the campaign 161
   Insufficiency of philosophical criticism 163
   Towards a coherent philosophy of noogenesis and SETI 181

8 Natural and artificial: the cosmic Domain of Arnheim
   Unconscious intelligence? 184
   ‘... It was only by analogy that they called it colour at all’ 186
   The strangeness of astroengineering 188

9 Astrobiology as the neo-Copernican synthesis?
   Notes 203
   References 216
   Index 237
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