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Origins of Land Animals

Colin Little

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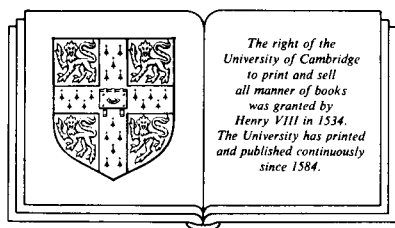
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The terrestrial invasion

An ecophysiological approach to the origins of land animals

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University of Bristol*



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To SERG, for all its support, in water as well as on land

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Part I Introduction	1
1 Perspective	3
2 Problems: terrestrial versus aquatic habitats	14
3 The evidence	35
 Part II Routes on to land	 45
4 The origins of terrestrial animals in relation to salt and water balance	47
5 Muddy and sandy shores: interstitial fauna and the burrowers	86
6 Saltmarshes and mangrove swamps as routes on to land	116
7 Rocky and shingle shores as routes on to land	148
8 The freshwater route to land	167
 Part III Life on land	 201
9 Terrestrial adaptations	203
10 Terrestrial ecosystems	247
 <i>References</i>	 276
<i>Index</i>	295

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Preface

This book is intended as an introduction to a very wide subject, the invasion of land by animal lines which originated in aquatic environments. In an earlier book, *The Colonisation of Land*, I discussed the phylogeny and physiology of terrestrial and semi-terrestrial animals in some detail. Here I have taken a more ecological approach, considering the various possible intermediate environments between water and land, and the ways in which animal lines have adapted to these. To do this I have adopted a ‘case-history’ approach, which has allowed me to select examples that seem to me to be representative. I have also dealt more extensively with the environment itself, and with the ways in which terrestrial communities have developed. This book is therefore in every way a *new* book, although some of the physiological information in the first book has been summarized in Chapters 4 and 9.

During the writing of the text, I have been fortunate to benefit from the advice of Dr R. S. K. Barnes, who originally suggested the overall plan, and who has made constructive comments on all the chapters. I thank him, and my wife P. E. Stirling, who has also read the entirety, and has helped to reduce it to English. I am grateful to Dr D. E. G. Briggs, whose advice has allowed me to re-draft and update Chapters 1 and 3. Lastly, I am lucky to be able to thank Mrs J. Ablett, who once again has struggled with my text to produce an excellent index.

Colin Little
Bristol