

Cryptic Species

Morphological Stasis, Circumscription, and Hidden Diversity

Cryptic species are organisms that look identical but represent distinct evolutionary lineages. They are an emerging trend in organismal biology across all groups, from flatworms, insects, amphibians, and primates, to vascular plants. This book critically evaluates the phenomenon of cryptic species and demonstrates how they can play a valuable role in improving our understanding of evolution, in particular of morphological stasis. It also explores how the recognition of cryptic species is intrinsically linked to the so-called species problem, the lack of a unifying species concept in biology, and suggests alternative approaches. Bringing together a range of perspectives from practising taxonomists, the book presents case studies of cryptic species across a range of animal and plant groups. It will be an invaluable text for all biologists interested in species and their delimitation, definition, and purpose, including undergraduate and graduate students and researchers.

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Cryptic Species

Morphological Stasis, Circumscription,
and Hidden Diversity

Edited by

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