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Molecular Ecology and Evolution: Approaches and Applications

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Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer, Basel | In the last 25 years, we have witnessed a revolution in the way that ecologists and evolutionary biologists approach their disciplines. This revolution has been fueled by the ability to dissect the genetic and molecular basis of variation that is partly the currency of these disciplines. Using modern molecular techniques, we have begun to restructure the spectrum of questions that can be addressed in studying the mechanisms and consequences of the ecology and evolution of living organisms. The molecular revolution has come in waves, so to speak, with three particularly important developments. The first concerns the establishment and widespread use of protein analysis. Microcomplement fixation and isozyme electrophoresis were the techniques around which much of the genetic work in ecology and evolution were once based. The next wave started with the development of recombinant DNA technology and centered around the use of restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) and sequencing of DNAs cloned in bacteria. This technology was the first to actually examine and accumulate genetic information at the nucleotide level. The most recent wave of technology that we are currently experiencing is based on our ability to...



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