

# Practical Chordate Zoology

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the origin and evolution of chordates is one of the most mysterious and interesting phenomena in evolutionary development science chordates are creatures characterized by possession of a notochord and pharyngeal gill openings they comprise of three taxa cephalochordates urochordates or tunicates and vertebrates chordates belong to a supraphyletic gathering of deuterostomes together with echinoderms and hemichordates and are thought to have been derived from the regular ancestors of deuterostomes vertebrates evolved by developing a body design with the greatest complexity among metazoans amid the 1980s a new wave of molecular developmental science revealed that genes encoding interpretation factors and flag pathway molecules assume critical roles in the differentiation of embryonic cells arrangement of organs and tissues and morphogenesis for development of metazoan body designs presently another wave of evolutionary developmental science studies revealed that metazoans from cnidarians to vertebrates despite their diverse morphologies utilize a very comparable set of interpretation factors and flag pathway molecules for body development these genes are sometimes collectively called a genetic toolbox

chordate origins and evolution the molecular evolutionary road to vertebrates focuses on echinoderms starfish sea urchins and others hemichordates acorn worms etc cephalochordates lancelets urochordates or tunicates ascidians larvaceans and others and vertebrates in general evolution of these groups is discussed independently on a larger scale ambulacrarians echi hemi and chordates cephlo uro vert until now discussion of these topics has been somewhat fragmented and this work provides a unified presentation of the essential information in the more than 150 years since charles darwin proposed the concept of the origin of species by means of natural selection which has profoundly affected all fields of biology and medicine the evolution of animals metazoans has been studied discussed and debated extensively following many decades of classical comparative morphology and embryology the 1980s marked a turning point in studies of animal evolution when molecular biological approaches including molecular phylogeny mp molecular evolutionary developmental biology evo devo and comparative genomics cg began to be employed there are at least five key events in metazoan evolution which include the origins of 1 diploblastic animals such as cnidarians 2 triploblastic animals or bilaterians 3 protostomes and deuterostomes 4 chordates among deuterostomes and 5 vertebrates among chordates the last two have received special attention in relation to evolution of human beings during the past two decades great advances have been made in this field especially in regard to molecular and developmental mechanisms involved in the evolution of chordates for example the interpretation of phylogenetic relationships among deuterostomes has drastically changed in addition we have now obtained a large quantity of mp evo devo and cg information on the origin and evolution of chordates covers the most significant advances in this field to give readers an understanding of the interesting biological issues involved provides a unified presentation of essential information regarding each phylum and an integrative understanding of molecular mechanisms involved in the origin and evolution of chordates discusses the evolutionary scenario of chordates

based on two major characteristic features of animals namely modes of feeding energy sources and reproduction as the two main forces driving animal evolution and benefiting dialogue for future studies of animal evolution

this book explains the essential principles processes and methodology of cell biology biochemistry and molecular biology it reflects upon the significant advances in cell biology such as motor proteins intracellular traffic and targeting of proteins signalling pathways receptors apoptosis aging and cancer it also discusses certain current topics such as history of life origin of life archaeabacteria split genes exon shuffling gene silencing rna interference mirna sirna and recombinant dna technology etc

this textbook is an introduction to the science of animal behaviour presently this subject is introduced in most of the indian universities in b sc iiird year and post graduate classes

based on the integrated and holistic approach the book systematically and comprehensively covers a general account of taxonomical morphological anatomical and physiological features of chordates the text does not restrict discussion only to a representative genus in each class but also provides knowledge of other important genera and gives their general account and comparative features to help students understand animal diversity in the phylum besides the type study the book also deals with the developmental and ecological aspects of the genera discussed the book is intended to fulfill the curriculum need of b sc zoology life sciences biological sciences and animal sciences as well as m sc zoology students for their core course on chordata chordates additionally the students appearing for various competitive examinations and entrance test for postgraduate courses in the related fields will find this book useful key features incorporates the topics of modern research such as fish as biocontrol agents mimicry in birds nesting and brooding behaviour of birds and so on compares important genera of the class morphological anatomical and adaptive features well illustrated coloured diagrams with meticulous details and labelling for clear understanding of anatomy important information nested in boxes points to remember and classification in the form of flow charts add strength to each chapter provides a variety of pedagogically arranged interactive exercises for self assessment from fill in the blanks true false statements give reasons to mcqs also the readers can check their answers online at phindia pandey mathur

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