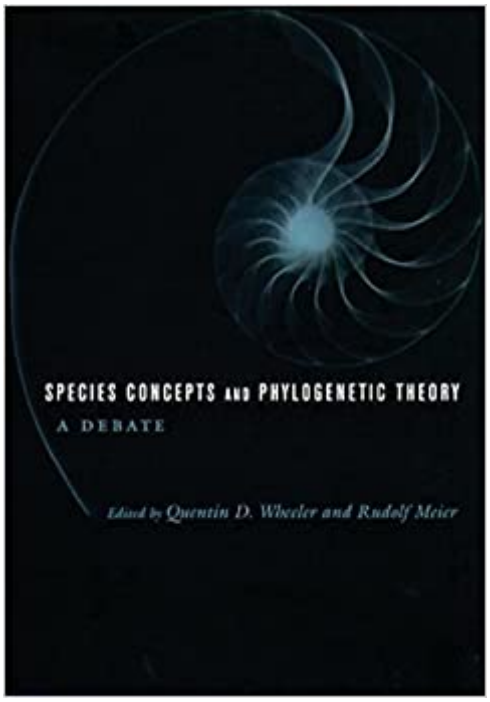
# Species Concepts And Phylogenetic Theory: A Debate



## Synopsis

-- Biodiversity

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## Customer Reviews

No question in theoretical biology has been more perennially controversial or perplexing than "What is a species?" Recent advances in phylogenetic theory have called into question traditional views of species and spawned many concepts that are currently competing for general acceptance. Once the subject of esoteric intellectual exercises, the "species problem" has emerged as a critically important aspect of global environmental concerns. Completion of an inventory of biodiversity, success in conservation, predictive knowledge about life on earth, management of material resources, formulation of scientifically credible public policy and law, and more depend upon our adoption of the "right" species concept.Quentin D. Wheeler and Rudolf Meier present a debate among top systematic biology theorists to consider the strengths and weaknesses of five competing concepts. Debaters include (1) Ernst Mayr (Biological Species Concept), (2) Rudolf Meier and Rainer Willmann (Hennigian species concept), (3) Brent Mishler and Edward Theriot (one version of

the Phylogenetic Species Concept), (4) Quentin Wheeler and Norman Platnick (a competing version of the Phylogenetic Species Concept), and (5) E. O. Wiley and Richard Mayden (the Evolutionary Species Concept).Each author or pair of authors contributes three essays to the debate: first, a position paper with an opening argument for their respective concept of species; second, a counterpoint view of the weakness of competing concepts; and, finally, a rebuttal of the attacks made by other authors. This unique and lively debate format makes the comparative advantages and disadvantages of competing species concepts clear and accessible in a single book for the first time, bringing to light numerous controversies in phylogenetic theory, taxonomy, and philosophy of science that are important to a wide audience. Species Concepts and Phylogenetic Theory will meet a need among scientists, conservationists, policy-makers, and students of biology for an explicit, critical evaluation of a large and complex literature on species. An important reference for professionals, the book will prove especially useful in classrooms and discussion groups where students may find a concise, lucid entrÃ©e to one of the most complex questions facing science and society.

Few reviews based on congress meetings really go beyond bookshelves. This discussion on species concepts is a landmark in the on-going discussion of the subject. I highly recommend it for new insights and new interpretations, despite it being 10 years old.

This volume treats the "species problem" with a clear view of some of its competing hypothesis. Probably its greatest merit is due to the possibility of a written debate which guides the reader through the doubts of the controversies of this charming subject.

Species (Common and Notable Species) Species: A History of the Idea (Species and Systematics) Music Theory: From Beginner to Expert - The Ultimate Step-By-Step Guide to Understanding and Learning Music Theory Effortlessly (Music Theory Mastery Book 1) Recursion Theory, Godel's Theorems, Set Theory, Model Theory (Mathematical Logic: A Course With Exercises, Part II) Islamic Theory of Evolution: The Missing Link between Darwin and the Origin of Species Abraham's the Forms and Functions of Tort Law: An Analytical Primer on Cases and Concepts (2nd Edition) (Concepts and Insights Series) Concepts and Case Analysis in the Law of Contracts (Concepts and Insights) Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts (Timby, Fundamnetal Nursing Skills and Concepts) Federal Income Taxation, 12th (Concepts & Insights) (Concepts and Insights) Wiley CPAexcel Exam Review April 2017 Study Guide: Business Environment and Concepts (Wiley Cpa Exam Review Business Environment & Concepts)