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Population Genetics: A Concise Guide

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A Concise Guide
SECOND EDITION
John H. Gillespie
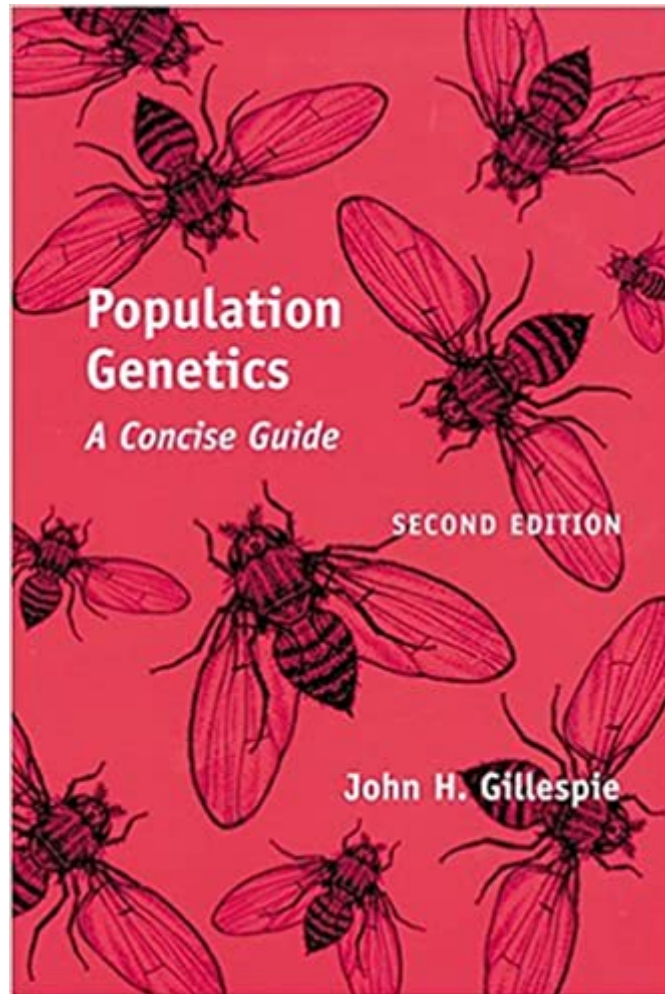
Synopsis

This concise introduction offers students and researchers an overview of the discipline that connects genetics and evolution. Addressing the theories behind population genetics and relevant empirical evidence, John Gillespie discusses genetic drift, natural selection, nonrandom mating, quantitative genetics, and the evolutionary advantage of sex. First published to wide acclaim in 1998, this brilliant primer has been updated to include new sections on molecular evolution, genetic drift, genetic load, the stationary distribution, and two-locus dynamics. This book is indispensable for students working in a laboratory setting or studying free-ranging populations.

Book Information

Paperback: 232 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; 2nd edition (July 2, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801880092

ISBN-13: 978-0801880094

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars   13 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"A well-developed, thoughtful, and classic book that has been tested and improved through many years in the classroom... A 'must' for anyone interested in plant or animal genetics."

"John Gillespie has done the near-impossible, condensing the essence of population genetics into a very short book. The result is a little gem. The derivations are simple and clear, and often strikingly original. The minor gaps in the first edition are filled by this equally concise second edition. Population genetics is a complicated subject; only a person of Gillespie's depth of knowledge and insight could simplify without distorting." -- James F. Crow, author of Genetics Notes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I am a retired professor of population genetics and I should like to keep myself in the mainstraim of population genetics. There are several recent good books on this topic, but they are quite expensive. Since much time I know the author as one of the best theoretician in population genetics, author of an excellent but hard to understand fully without serious efforts.The present book is in principle destined to students and the author is supposed to make an effort to render accessible his teaching. In this course, some parts are really very classical and easy to understand - actually, it was what I taught to my own students of "DEUG and "MaÃƒÆ'Ã Â®trise" level. Of course, it was not that which I looked for in this book. For instance I was interested by the concept of "coalescence" which is too recent for I am aware of it during my time of activity. And indeed, it is quite well explained by Gillespie. Frankly speakig, when it comes to the field of which the author is a leading specialist (and which is more familiar to me), things become of more difficult access. But I must confess that I have probably been less hungry of these subjects.This book will relly bring the students who use it to a high level and they will prepared to access to the most advanced developments of population genetics - provided that they make the necessary effort!Henri A DescimonHonorary ProfessorUniversitÃƒÂ© de ProvenceFrance

As a graduate student with some familiarity in population genetics, I found this an excellent review and guide to some more in-depth topics I had not yet thought of. However, sometimes the math was a bit heavy and seemed to weigh a chapter down. I appreciate a decent amount of math, but it was a bit hard to follow. Still, I think it's a useful resource and a very manageable length.

Excellent literature and exscersice-guided learning of population genetics. Used it as main book for the class

Just in time! Great for people that is starting to learn about it

For being used, the book looked new. Quick delivery too.

I bought it for a course I'm taking but this book is indeed a concise guide - not the whole picture. IF you're new to population genetics this is not the best book to start understanding it. As I soon discover, this area of biology has its own language and it is extremely hard for me to follow and understand their principles (math apart) just by reading this book. My professor seems to like the book a lot so I guess if you're not a beginner in pop genetics this is a good one.

Reliable. Book is really confusing, though, especially if your professors and TAs are worthless in class. I hope you're reading this, Ryan.

This is a classic. The book is clearly written and (as the title indicates) concise. It doesn't try to be comprehensive, but instead gives the reader a taste--or more like a solid breakfast--of core ideas in population genetics. Among other things, the book gives the reader a feel for the art of using relevant approximating assumptions. It also includes choice illustrations from the empirical literature, giving the reader a sense of the real-world messiness that lies beyond the quirky beauty of the mathematics. Gillespie's book introduces areas of research often left out of introductory texts, such as selection in temporally fluctuating environments, the evolution of sex, and genetic draft (a concept he introduced). The first edition was my introduction to population genetics, and I continue to make use of the second edition when I want to refresh my understanding of some of the ideas that it covers. The level of mathematical insight required is not nothing, but it's not very great, either. You will have to work through some of the algebra and occasionally calculus yourself, if you want a complete grasp of the content. I think it's possible to get a feel of the ideas without working through the missing steps, but there are aren't very many steps that need to be filled in from one line to the next. In any event, population genetics is a mathematical subject; this book makes it almost as easy as possible, while still providing deeper insights. But don't expect a recipe book for applications. There are appendices on probability concepts and general mathematical theorems used in the main text; these appendices are as clearly written and as well thought out as the rest of the book.

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