

How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution

In *How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution*, evolutionary biologist Menno Schilthuizen investigates the ways in which urban environments are rapidly changing the evolution of plants and animals. Drawing on cutting-edge research, Schilthuizen shows how urban environments are creating new opportunities for some species, while driving others to extinction. He also explores the ways in which urban environments are changing the behavior and physiology of animals, and even the evolution of human beings.



Darwin Comes to Town: How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution by Menno Schilthuizen

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 12704 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 290 pages



Urban Evolution in Action

One of the most striking examples of urban evolution is the case of the peppered moth. In the early 1800s, the peppered moth was a light-colored insect that lived in rural areas of England. However, as industrialization spread, the trees in these areas became covered in soot, making them darker. As a result, the light-colored peppered moths became more visible

to predators and were more likely to be eaten. Over time, the population of light-colored peppered moths declined, while the population of dark-colored peppered moths increased. This is a classic example of natural selection in action, where a trait that is advantageous in a particular environment becomes more common over time.

Urban environments are also creating new opportunities for some species. For example, the peregrine falcon, which was once a rare bird of prey, has made a comeback in recent years thanks to the abundance of tall buildings in cities. These buildings provide peregrine falcons with nesting sites and hunting grounds, and as a result, the population of peregrine falcons has increased.

The Impacts of Urbanization on Animal Behavior and Physiology

In addition to changing the evolution of plants and animals, urban environments are also changing the behavior and physiology of animals. For example, studies have shown that birds that live in urban areas are more likely to be aggressive and have higher levels of stress hormones than birds that live in rural areas. Urban animals are also more likely to be exposed to pollutants and other toxins, which can have negative effects on their health and reproduction.

The Evolution of Human Beings in Urban Environments

Urban environments are also having an impact on the evolution of human beings. For example, studies have shown that people who live in urban areas are more likely to be obese and have higher rates of heart disease and diabetes than people who live in rural areas. This is likely due to the fact that urban environments are more sedentary and have less access to healthy food.

How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution is a fascinating and thought-provoking book that explores the ways in which urban environments are rapidly changing the evolution of plants, animals, and humans.

Schilthuizen's research provides a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that urban environments present to living organisms, and his insights will be of interest to anyone who is interested in the future of life on Earth.

To learn more about How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution, visit the author's website: <https://www.mennoschilthuizen.com/>



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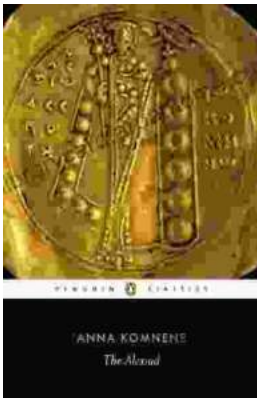
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