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Born in 1960 in Mölln, Germany
Studied Zoology and Biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley,
Organismal and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, and Biology at the
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FOCUS

PROJECT

Speciation and Diversification in the Adaptive Radiations of Cichlid Fishes

Charles Darwin recognized that new species can originate in several different kinds of geographic settings, including "allopatry" (from the Greek *allos* meaning "other" and *patra* meaning "fatherland"), where novel species arise resulting from geographical isolation and lack of homogenizing gene flow, as well as through "sympatric speciation" (from the Greek *sym* for "the same"), whereby populations diverge into separate species even in the absence of geographical isolation. However, the feasibility and frequency of the latter mechanism has been hotly debated ever since Darwin. Although theoretical as well as empirical evidence has been put forth regularly since the 1930s, biological assumptions of models and the level of support of empirical evidence in studies reporting on sympatric speciation are still often doubted, and, even today, few cases are widely accepted as bona fide evidence for sympatric speciation. While examples of sympatric speciation are published quite regularly, although rather infrequently, and rules for testing allopatric speciation are well-accepted, those for sympatric speciation remain controversial.

It is necessary to better understand the limitations of empirical work in determining crucial parameters of theoretical models such as the strength of selection in disruptive selection that is deemed necessary for sympatric speciation to occur. There is an obvious need for communication between theoretical and empirical evolutionary biologists interested in speciation.

Recommended Reading

- Meyer, A., T. D. Kocher, P. Basasibwaki, and A. C. Wilson. 1990. "Monophyletic origin of Lake Victoria cichlid fishes suggested by mitochondrial DNA sequences." *Nature* 347: 550-553.
- Verheyen, E., W. Salzburger, J. Snocks, and A. Meyer. 2003. "The origin of the superflock of cichlid fishes from Lake Victoria, East Africa." *Science* 300: 325-329.
- Barluenga, M., K. Stölting, W. Salzburger, M. Muschick, and A. Meyer. 2006. "Sympatric speciation in Nicaraguan crater lake cichlid fish." *Nature* 439: 719-724.

Meyer, Axel (München,2015)

Adams Apfel und Evas Erbe : wie die Gene unser Leben bestimmen und warum Frauen anders sind als Männer

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=785151176>

Meyer, Axel (Hamburg,2011)

Evolution : die Entstehung des Lebens ; ein exklusives Zeit-Seminar

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=682891029>

Zeit-Akademie

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=682891029>

Meyer, Axel (Bethesda, Md.,2009)

A microsatellite-based genetic linkage map of the cichlid fish, *Astatotilapia burtoni* (Teleostei) : a comparison of genomic architectures among rapidly speciating cichlids

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1726277526>

Meyer, Axel (London,2009)

The evolutionary significance of ancient genome duplications

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1726010767>

Meyer, Axel (Oxford,2009)

Space, sympatry and speciation

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1043289070>

Meyer, Axel (2009)

Brain-Drain und Brain-Gain : Wie Deutschland seine Chancen als Land der Wissenschaft verpasst

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=670715425>

Meyer, Axel (Mainz,2009)

ZDF Nachtstudio : Charles Darwin - der Kampf geht weiter ; Volker Panzer diskutiert mit der Verhaltensbiologin Julia Fischer, dem Evolutionsbiologen Axel Meyer, dem Philosophen Volker Gerhardt und dem Mediziner und Neurobiologen Joachim Bauer

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=669198773>

Meyer, Axel (Düsseldorf,2008)

Wir sind alle Mutanten! : die Evolution dauert an ; Alexander Weil im Gespräch mit Axel Meier

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=669198757>

News & Stories

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=669198757>

Meyer, Axel (Berlin,2008)

Algenraspler, Schneckenknacker, Schuppenfresser : Axel Meyer über den evolutionären Erfolg der Buntbarsche

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=578074869>

Meyer, Axel (Wien,2008)

Evolution ist überall : gesammelte Kolumne "Quantensprung" des Handelsblattes

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=556320581>