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Despite their many shapes and sizes, and the multitude of habitats within which they function, animal weapons share many

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properties: They evolve when males are able to defend spatially restricted critical resources, they are typically the most variable morphological structures of these species, and this variation honestly reflects among-individual differences in body size or quality.

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Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle
by Douglas J ...

In Animal Weapons: The Evolution of
Battle, Douglas Emlen explores the
different weapons and competitions that
exist in the animal kingdom. Emlen lays
out the conditions that lead to the
evolution of weapons and arms-races in a
species, examines their effects and
consequences on that populations, and
then draws parallels to the evolution of
weapons and warfare among humans.

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Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle by Douglas J. Emlen

Every animal relies on a weapon of some kind-cats have claws, eagles have talons, even the dogs we keep as pets have a respectable set of teeth. In rare cases, we find species whose weapons have become stunningly outsized, some with tusks so massive that those who wield them look like they should collapse under the weight.

Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle

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The evolutionary pressure that produces magnificent horns, sharp and large teeth and claws, as well as camouflage capabilities and division of labor within an animal species, operates in a remarkably similar ways to the development of military technology.

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The story behind the stunning, extreme morphological weapons we see in the animal world – teeth and horns and claws – and what they can tell us about the way

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humans develop and use arms and other weapons In Animal Weapons, Doug Emlen takes us outside the lab and deep into the forests and jungles where he's been studying animal weapons in nature for years, to explain the processes behind the most intriguing and curious examples of extreme animal weapons – fish with mouths larger than ...

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An exploration of the extreme weapons we see in the animal world—teeth, horns and claws—draws parallels to the way humans develop and employ our own weapons.

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the stunning, extreme weapons we see in the animal world--teeth and horns and claws--and what they can tell us about the way humans develop and use arms and other weapons In *Animal Weapons*, Doug Emlen takes us outside the lab and deep into the forests and jungles where he's been studying animal weapons in nature for years, to explain the processes behind the most intriguing and curious examples of extreme animal weapons—fish with mouths larger than their bodies and bugs whose heads are so packed with muscle they don't have room for eyes. As singular and strange as some of the weapons we encounter on these pages are, we learn that similar factors set their evolution in motion. Emlen uses these patterns to draw parallels to the way we humans develop and employ our own weapons, and have since battle began. He looks at everything from our armor and camouflage to the

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evolution of the rifle and the structures human populations have built across different regions and eras to protect their homes and communities. With stunning black and white drawings and gorgeous color illustrations of these concepts at work, *Animal Weapons* brings us the complete story of how weapons reach their most outsized, dramatic potential, and what the results we witness in the animal world can tell us about our own relationship with weapons of all kinds.

Join scientist Doug Emlen on his quest to find out why an elusive type of beetle grows weapons that are enormous for its body size. What does it take to be a scientist in the field? Doug Emlen is a scientist. He studies beetles. Specifically, he studies the evolution of beetle weapons—how their horns and armor change to better suit them in different

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environments. This book starts with a mystery: Doug wanted to know why a particular type of beetle developed a massive evolutionary weapon. He wanted to know how these changes happened and what advantages these enormous weapons gave the tiny dung beetles. So, he went to visit. Part travel diary and part scientific exploration, *Beetle Battles* takes you deep into the South American rainforest to monitor beetles in their own habitat. Packed with color photographs, extensive back matter, and entertaining anecdotes, this book will make beetle fans out of all its young readers.

Contests are an important aspect of the lives of diverse animals, from sea anemones competing for space on a rocky shore to fallow deer stags contending for access to females. Why do animals fight? What determines when fights stop and

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which contestant wins? Addressing fundamental questions on contest behaviour, this volume presents theoretical and empirical perspectives across a range of species. The historical development of contest research, the evolutionary theory of both dyadic and multiparty contests, and approaches to experimental design and data analysis are discussed in the first chapters. This is followed by reviews of research in key animal taxa, from the use of aerial displays and assessment rules in butterflies and the developmental biology of weapons in beetles, through to interstate warfare in humans. The final chapter considers future directions and applications of contest research, making this a comprehensive resource for both graduate students and researchers in the field.

A FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER

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PRIZE NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE

YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOOK REVIEW, SMITHSONIAN, AND

WALL STREET JOURNAL A major

reimagining of how evolutionary forces
work, revealing how mating

preferences—what Darwin termed "the
taste for the beautiful"—create the

extraordinary range of ornament in the

animal world. In the great halls of science,

dogma holds that Darwin's theory of

natural selection explains every branch on

the tree of life: which species thrive,

which wither away to extinction, and what

features each evolves. But can adaptation

by natural selection really account for

everything we see in nature? Yale

University ornithologist Richard

Prum—reviving Darwin's own

views—thinks not. Deep in tropical jungles

around the world are birds with a dizzying

array of appearances and mating displays:

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Club-winged Manakins who sing with their wings, Great Argus Pheasants who dazzle prospective mates with a four-foot-wide cone of feathers covered in golden 3D spheres, Red-capped Manakins who moonwalk. In thirty years of fieldwork, Prum has seen numerous display traits that seem disconnected from, if not outright contrary to, selection for individual survival. To explain this, he dusts off Darwin's long-neglected theory of sexual selection in which the act of choosing a mate for purely aesthetic reasons—for the mere pleasure of it—is an independent engine of evolutionary change. Mate choice can drive ornamental traits from the constraints of adaptive evolution, allowing them to grow ever more elaborate. It also sets the stakes for sexual conflict, in which the sexual autonomy of the female evolves in response to male sexual control. Most crucially, this framework provides

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important insights into the evolution of human sexuality, particularly the ways in which female preferences have changed male bodies, and even maleness itself, through evolutionary time. *The Evolution of Beauty* presents a unique scientific vision for how nature's splendor contributes to a more complete understanding of evolution and of ourselves.

A dramatic account of the violent ancient battle traces the massive defeat of the huge but inexperienced Roman army by Hannibal's forces, interpreting the larger course of the Second Punic War and the often-disastrous ways in which the battle has been imitated throughout history.

When a chimpanzee stockpiles rocks as weapons or when a frog sends out mating calls, we might easily assume these

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animals know their own motivations--that they use the same psychological mechanisms that we do. But as *Beyond the Brain* indicates, this is a dangerous assumption because animals have different evolutionary trajectories, ecological niches, and physical attributes. How do these differences influence animal thinking and behavior? Removing our human-centered spectacles, Louise Barrett investigates the mind and brain and offers an alternative approach for understanding animal and human cognition. Drawing on examples from animal behavior, comparative psychology, robotics, artificial life, developmental psychology, and cognitive science, Barrett provides remarkable new insights into how animals and humans depend on their bodies and environment--not just their brains--to behave intelligently. Barrett begins with an overview of human cognitive

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adaptations and how these color our views of other species, brains, and minds.

Considering when it is worth having a big brain--or indeed having a brain at all--she investigates exactly what brains are good at. Showing that the brain's evolutionary function guides action in the world, she looks at how physical structure contributes to cognitive processes, and she demonstrates how these processes employ materials and resources in specific environments. Arguing that thinking and behavior constitute a property of the whole organism, not just the brain, *Beyond the Brain* illustrates how the body, brain, and cognition are tied to the wider world.

"The story of venom from ancient origins to modern medicinal use"--

Biodiversity-the genetic variety of life-is an exuberant product of the evolutionary

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past, a vast human-supportive resource (aesthetic, intellectual, and material) of the present, and a rich legacy to cherish and preserve for the future. Two urgent challenges, and opportunities, for 21st-century science are to gain deeper insights into the evolutionary processes that foster biotic diversity, and to translate that understanding into workable solutions for the regional and global crises that biodiversity currently faces. A grasp of evolutionary principles and processes is important in other societal arenas as well, such as education, medicine, sociology, and other applied fields including agriculture, pharmacology, and biotechnology. The ramifications of evolutionary thought also extend into learned realms traditionally reserved for philosophy and religion. The central goal of the In the Light of Evolution (ILE) series is to promote the evolutionary

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sciences through state-of-the-art colloquia-
in the series of Arthur M. Sackler
colloquia sponsored by the National
Academy of Sciences-and their published
proceedings. Each installment explores
evolutionary perspectives on a particular
biological topic that is scientifically
intriguing but also has special relevance to
contemporary societal issues or
challenges. This tenth and final edition of
the In the Light of Evolution series
focuses on recent developments in
phylogeographic research and their
relevance to past accomplishments and
future research directions.

Humans domesticated dogs soon after
Neanderthals began to disappear. This
alliance between two predator species, Pat
Shipman hypothesizes, made possible
unprecedented success in hunting large Ice
Age mammals—a distinct and ultimately

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decisive advantage for human invaders at a time when climate change made both humans and Neanderthals vulnerable.

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