

EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

A Chronological History of Significant Discoveries

1735

Carl Linnaeus

Publishes *Systema Naturae*, establishing the modern system of binomial nomenclature for classifying organisms.

1809

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck

Proposes the first cohesive theory of evolution involving the inheritance of acquired characteristics.

1859

Charles Darwin

Publishes *On the Origin of Species*, introducing natural selection as the mechanism for evolution.

1866

Gregor Mendel

Publishes his work on pea plant inheritance, founding the laws of genetics (largely ignored until 1900).

1930s - 1940s

The Modern Synthesis

Integration of Mendelian genetics with Darwinian natural selection by Mayr, Dobzhansky, and others.

1953

Watson, Crick, & Franklin

Discovery of the DNA double helix structure, providing the molecular basis for heredity.

1972

Punctuated Equilibrium

Eldredge and Gould propose that evolution consists of long periods of stasis interrupted by brief periods of rapid change.

2003

Human Genome Project

Completion of the sequencing of the human genome, opening new frontiers in comparative genomics.