

# Contents

*Preface xv*

## CHAPTER **one**

### INTRODUCTION 1

---

#### COMPARATIVE VERTEBRATE MORPHOLOGY 1

- Designs of Students 2
- Vertebrate Design—Form and Function 3
- Grand Design 3

#### HISTORICAL PREDECESSORS—EVOLUTION 3

- The Process behind the Change 4
- Linnaeus 4
- Naturalists 5
- J-B. de Lamarck 5
  - Acquired Characteristics* 6
  - Upward to Perfection* 6
- Natural Selection 7
- A. R. Wallace 7
- Charles Darwin 8
- Critics and Controversy 9

#### HISTORICAL PREDECESSORS—MORPHOLOGY 10

- Georges Cuvier 10
- Richard Owen 11

#### WHY ARE THERE NO FLYING ELEPHANTS? 13

#### MORPHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS 14

- Similarities 14
- Symmetry 16
- Segmentation 16

#### EVOLUTIONARY MORPHOLOGY 18

- Function and Biological Role 18
- Preadaptation 18
- Evolution as Remodeling 20

#### PHYLOGENY 20

- Of Bean Stalks and Bushes 20
- Simplification 22
- Patterns of Phylogeny 22
- Grades and Clades 23

#### PALEONTOLOGY 27

- Fossilization and Fossils 27
- Recovery and Restoration 30
- From Animal to Fossil 33
- Dating Fossils 35
  - Stratigraphy* 35
  - Index Fossils* 35
  - Radiometric Dating* 35
  - Geological Ages* 35

#### TOOLS OF THE TRADE 39

- The Question 39
- The Function 40
- The Biological Role 43

#### OVERVIEW 45

## CHAPTER **two**

### ORIGIN OF CHORDATES 47

---

#### CHORDATE PHYLOGENY 47

#### CHORDATE CHARACTERISTICS 49

- Notochord 49
- Pharyngeal Slits 51
- Endostyle or Thyroid Gland 52
- Dorsal and Tubular Nerve Cord 52
- Postanal Tail 52
- Chordate Body Plan 52

#### PROTOCHORDATES 53

- Hemichordata 54
  - Enteropneusta*—“Acorn Worms” 55
  - Pterobranchia* 57
  - Hemichordate Phylogenetic Affinities* 58
- Urochordata 58
  - Ascidiacea*—“Sea Squirts” 60
  - Larvacea* (*Appendicularia*) 61
  - Thaliacea* 64
- Cephalochordata 65
- Overview of Protochordates 70

CHORDATE ORIGINS	71
Cephalochordates from Annelids and Arthropods	71
Cephalochordates from Echinoderms	72
<i>The Evidence</i>	72
<i>Appearance of Chordate Characteristics</i>	73
<i>Selective Advantage</i>	73
<i>Larval Echinoderm to Chordate Tadpole</i>	74
<i>The Critics</i>	75
<i>Phylogeny, Paedomorphism, and Origins</i>	75
OVERVIEW	77

## CHAPTER **three**

### THE VERTEBRATE STORY 80

---

INTRODUCTION	80
Innovations	81
<i>Vertebral Column</i>	81
<i>Head</i>	82
Origin of Vertebrates	82
<i>Step 1: Prevertebrate</i>	82
<i>Step 2: Agnathan</i>	83
<i>Step 3: Gnathostome</i>	83
<i>The Controversial Calcichordates</i>	84
Vertebrate Classification	84
AGNATHANS	84
Living Agnathans	86
<i>Myxinoidea</i>	86
<i>Petromyzontida</i>	86
Early Vertebrate Fossils	86
<i>Conodonts</i>	87
<i>Ostracoderms</i>	89
<i>Pteraspidomorpha</i>	89
<i>Other Ostracoderms</i>	89
Overview of Agnathan Evolution	91
GNATHOSTOMES	92
Placodermi	93
Chondrichthyes	93
<i>Elasmobranchii—Sharks and Rays</i>	95
<i>Holocephali—Chimaeras</i>	95
TELEOSTOMI	96
Acanthodii	96
Osteichthyes	96
<i>Actinopterygii</i>	98
<i>Sarcopterygii</i>	99
Overview of Fish Phylogeny	101
TETRAPODS	101
Primitive Tetrapods	102
<i>Labyrinthodonts</i>	102
<i>Lepospondyls</i>	104
Lissamphibia—Modern Amphibians	105
<i>Urodela (Caudata)</i>	105
<i>Salientia (Anura)</i>	106
<i>Gymnophiona (Apoda)</i>	106

AMNIOTES	106
Stem—Amniotes	108
Sauropsids	108
<i>Mesosaurs</i>	108
<i>Reptilia</i>	108
Synapsida	116
<i>Pelycosauria</i>	117
<i>Therapsida</i>	117
<i>Mammalia</i>	120

## CHAPTER **four**

### BIOLOGICAL DESIGN 125

---

INTRODUCTION: SIZE AND SHAPE	125
SIZE	128
Relationships among Length, Area, and Volume	128
Surface Area	130
Volume and Mass	130
SHAPE	131
Allometry	131
Transformation Grids	132
ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING THE RIGHT SIZE	134
BIOMECHANICS	134
Fundamental Principles	135
<i>Basic Quantities—Length, Time, and Mass</i>	135
<i>Units</i>	136
<i>Derived Quantities—Velocity, Acceleration, Force, and Relatives</i>	136
<i>Reference Systems</i>	137
<i>Center of Mass</i>	137
<i>Vectors</i>	137
Basic Force Laws	138
Free Bodies and Forces	138
Torques and Levers	139
Land and Fluid	141
<i>Life on Land: Gravity</i>	141
<i>Life in Fluids</i>	142
Machines	144
Strength of Materials	145
<i>Loads</i>	146
<i>Biological Design and Biological Failure</i>	146
Tissue Response to Mechanical Stress	147
<i>Responsiveness of Bone</i>	148
BIOPHYSICS AND OTHER PHYSICAL PROCESSES	152
Diffusion and Exchange	152
<i>Pressures and Partial Pressures</i>	152
<i>Countercurrent, Concurrent, and Crosscurrent Exchange</i>	153
Optics	154
<i>Depth Perception</i>	155
<i>Accommodation</i>	155
OVERVIEW	156

## CHAPTER **five**

### LIFE HISTORY 158

---

#### INTRODUCTION 158

#### EARLY EMBRYOLOGY 159

- Fertilization 159
- Cleavage 161
  - Amphioxus* 161
  - Fishes 162
  - Amphibians* 162
  - Reptiles and Birds* 162
  - Mammals 163
  - Overview of Cleavage* 164
- Gastrulation and Neurulation 164
  - Amphioxus* 166
  - Fishes 166
  - Amphibians* 167
  - Reptiles and Birds* 168
  - Mammals 169

#### ORGANOGENESIS 172

- Histogenesis 174
- Epithelium 174
  - Covering and Lining Epithelium* 176
  - Glandular Epithelium* 176
- Connective Tissues 177
  - General Connective Tissues* 177
  - Special Connective Tissues* 178
- Bone Development and Growth 179
  - Endochondral Bone Development* 179
  - Intramembranous Bone Development* 181
  - Comparative Bone Histology* 181
  - Bone Remodeling and Repair* 183
  - Joints* 184
- Neural Crest and Ectodermal Placodes 186

#### EXTRAEMBRYONIC MEMBRANES 186

- Reptiles and Birds* 187
- Mammals 187
  - Eutherian Placenta* 188
  - Other Placentae* 189

#### OVERVIEW OF EARLY EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT 189

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE COELOM AND ITS COMPARTMENTS 191

#### MATURATION 194

- Metamorphosis 194
- Heterochrony 195
- Peramorphosis 195
  - Paedomorphosis* 197

#### ONTOGENY AND PHYLOGENY 197

- Biogenetic Law 197
- von Baer's Law 198
- Overview of the Biogenetic Law 199

- Hox Genes and Their Kingdoms* 200
- Egg to Adult* 200
- Shaping Up: Positions and Parts* 201
- Evolutionary Significance* 201
- Epigenomics 202
  - Induction* 202
  - Phylogeny* 203

#### OVERVIEW 206

## CHAPTER **six**

### INTEGUMENT 209

---

#### EMBRYONIC ORIGIN 210

#### GENERAL FEATURES OF THE INTEGUMENT 210

- Dermis 210
- Epidermis 212

#### PHYLOGENY 213

- Integument of Fishes 213
  - Primitive Fishes* 214
  - Chondrichthyes* 214
  - Bony Fishes* 214
- Integument of Tetrapods 216
  - Amphibians* 216
  - Reptiles* 217
  - Birds* 218
  - Mammals* 221

#### SPECIALIZATIONS OF THE INTEGUMENT 225

- Nails, Claws, Hooves* 225
- Horns and Antlers* 226
- Baleen* 227
- Scales* 228
- Dermal Armor* 228
- Mucus* 228
- Color* 229

#### OVERVIEW 230

## CHAPTER **seven**

### SKELETAL SYSTEM: THE SKULL 234

---

#### INTRODUCTION 235

#### CHONDROCRANIUM 235

- Embryology 235

#### SPLANCHNOCRANIUM 238

- Embryology 238
- Origin of Jaws 239
- Types of Jaw Attachments 240

#### DERMATOCRANIUM 242

- Parts of the Dermatocranium 242
- Dermal Bone Series* 242

## OVERVIEW OF SKULL MORPHOLOGY 243

- Braincase 243
- Jaws 246
- Hyoid Apparatus 246

## CRANIAL KINESIS 246

## PHYLOGENY OF THE SKULL 247

- Agnathans 247
  - Ostracoderms 247
  - Cyclostomes 248
- Gnathostomes 249
  - Fishes 249
  - Early Tetrapods 256
  - Primitive Amniotes 258
  - Modern Reptiles 260
  - Birds 265
  - Synapsids 267

## OVERVIEW OF SKULL FUNCTION AND DESIGN 275

- Prey Capture 277
  - Feeding in Water 277
  - Feeding in Air 280
- Swallowing 280

## OVERVIEW 280

- Cranial Neural Crest 280
- Emergence of Mammals 281
- Evolutionary Modifications of Immature Forms:
  - Akinesis in Mammals 282
  - Composite Skull 285

**CHAPTER eight****SKELETAL SYSTEM:  
THE AXIAL SKELETON 289**

## INTRODUCTION 289

## BASIC COMPONENTS 290

- Vertebrae 290
  - Regions of the Vertebral Column 290
  - Centra 290
- Ribs 292
- Sternum 294
- Gastralia 294

## EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT 296

- Fishes 296
- Tetrapods 297

## PHYLOGENY 298

- Fishes 298
  - Agnathans 298
  - Gnathostomes 298

## Tetrapods 303

- Early Tetrapods 303
- Amniotes 308

## FORM AND FUNCTION 311

- Fluid Environment 311
- Terrestrial Environment 312
- Design of Vertebrae 313
  - Direction of the Neural Spine 313
  - Height of the Neural Spine 314
- Regionalization of the Vertebral Column 315

## OVERVIEW 318

**CHAPTER nine****SKELETAL SYSTEM: THE  
APPENDICULAR SKELETON 320**

## INTRODUCTION 320

## BASIC COMPONENTS 321

- Fins 321
- Limbs 321

## ORIGIN OF PAIRED FINS 322

- Gill-Arch Theory 322
- Fin-Fold Theory 323
- Embryonic Development of Tetrapod Limbs 324

## PHYLOGENY 325

- Fishes 325
  - Agnathans 325
  - Placoderms 326
  - Chondrichthyans 326
  - Acanthodians 328
  - Bony Fishes 328
- Tetrapods 330
  - Pectoral Girdle 330
  - Pelvic Girdle 333
  - Manus and Pes 333

## EVOLUTION OF THE APPENDICULAR SYSTEM 336

- Dual Origin of the Pectoral Girdle 336
- Adaptive Advantage of Lobe Fins 337
- Onto the Land 341

## FORM AND FUNCTION 342

- Swimming 342
- Terrestrial Locomotion 342
  - Early Gaits 342
  - Early Modes of Locomotion 343
  - Cursorial Locomotion 347
  - Aerial Locomotion 350
- Origin of Bird Flight 360
- Fossorial Locomotion 360

## OVERVIEW 362

**CHAPTER ten****THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM 365**

INTRODUCTION 365

ORGANIZATION OF MUSCLES 366

Classification of Muscles 366

*Skeletal Muscle* 367*Cardiac Muscle* 368*Smooth Muscle* 368

Structure of Skeletal Muscles 368

Tendons 370

Basis of Muscle Contraction 370

*Resting and Active Muscle* 370*Molecular Mechanisms of Contraction* 370

MUSCLE FUNCTION 371

Muscle Fibers 371

*Tension-Length Curves for a Single**Muscle Fiber* 371*Properties of Muscle Fibers* 371

Muscle Organs and Fibers 373

*Whole Muscle Force Generation* 373*Tension-Length Curves for a Whole Muscle* 374*Graded Force* 376*Cross-Sectional Area* 376*Fiber Orientation* 377*Velocity of Shortening* 377*Distance of Shortening* 378

Bone-Muscle Lever Systems 378

Sequencing of Muscle Actions 380

Overview of Muscle Mechanics 381

Muscle Actions 381

Muscle Homologies 383

EMBRYONIC ORIGIN OF MUSCLES 384

Postcranial Musculature 384

*Appendicular Musculature* 384*Axial Musculature* 385

Cranial Musculature 386

*Jaw and Pharyngeal Musculature* 386*Extrinsic Eye Muscles* 386

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY 387

Postcranial Musculature 387

*Axial Musculature* 387*Appendicular Musculature* 390

Cranial Musculature 396

*Branchiomic Musculature* 396*Hypobranchial Musculature* 400

OVERVIEW 401

**CHAPTER eleven****THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM 406**

INTRODUCTION 406

RESPIRATORY ORGANS 409

Gills 409

Lungs 409

Gas Bladders 409

Cutaneous Respiratory Organs 410

Accessory Air-breathing Organs 410

Breathing and Embryos 411

VENTILATORY MECHANISMS 414

Cilia 414

Muscular Mechanisms 414

*Water Ventilation: Dual Pump* 414*Air Ventilation: Buccal Pump* 415*Air Ventilation: Aspiration Pump* 416

PHYLOGENY 417

Agnathans 417

Elasmobranchs 419

Bony Fishes 420

Overview of Fish Respiration 420

Gills 420

*Lungs and Gas Bladders* 421

Amphibians 423

*Amphibian Larvae* 423*Amphibian Adults* 425

Reptiles 426

Mammals 427

*Ventilation* 428*Gas Exchange* 429

Birds 430

FORM AND FUNCTION 432

Patterns of Gas Transfer 432

Rates of Gas Transfer 433

Breathing in Water 437

Breathing in Air 437

EVOLUTION OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS 437

Acid-Base Regulation 437

Ventilation 438

*Ciliary Pumps* 438*Muscular Pumps* 439

Water-to-Land Transition 439

*Air-breathing Organs* 439*Advantages of Movement to Land* 439*Air-breathing Mechanisms* 440

Bird Lungs and Air Sacs 441

OVERVIEW 442

**CHAPTER twelve****THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM 445**

## INTRODUCTION 445

## CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM 446

- Blood 446
- Arteries, Veins, and Capillaries 446
  - Arteries 447
  - Hemodynamics of Circulation 447
  - Veins 448
  - Microcirculation 448
- Single and Double Circulation 449
- Embryonic Development of the Cardiovascular System 450
- Phylogeny of the Cardiovascular System 451
  - Arterial Vessels 455
  - Venous Vessels 460
- Hearts 467
  - Basic Vertebrate Heart 467
  - Fishes 469
  - Amphibians 472
  - Reptiles 474
  - Birds and Mammals 481
- Cardiovascular System: Matching Design to Environmental Demands 481
  - Accessory Air-breathing Organs 484
  - Diving Birds and Mammals 484
  - Heart Flow 484
  - Ontogeny of Cardiovascular Function 485
  - Fetal Circulation in Placental Mammals 485
  - Changes at Birth 485
  - Heat Transfer 487

## LYMPHATIC SYSTEM 488

- Lymphatic Vessels 489
- Lymphatic Tissue 491
- Form and Function 491

## OVERVIEW 492

**CHAPTER thirteen****THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM 496**

## INTRODUCTION 496

- Preview 497

## COMPONENTS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM 497

- Buccal Cavity 497
  - Boundaries 497
  - Palate 498
  - Teeth 499
  - Tongue 509
- Pharynx 510

## Alimentary Canal 513

- Esophagus 515
- Stomach 515
- Intestines 516
- Cloaca 518
- Specializations of the Alimentary Canal 518
- Vascularization of the Gastrointestinal Tract 520
- Fishes 520
- Tetrapods 521
- Associated Glands of Digestion 524
  - Oral Glands 524
  - Liver 526
  - Pancreas 527

## FUNCTION AND EVOLUTION OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM 528

- Absorption 528
- Feces 528
- Mechanical Breakdown of Food 529
  - Mastication 529
  - Gizzards 529
- Chemical Breakdown of Food 529
  - Gastric Fermentation 530
  - Intestinal Fermentation 533
- Gastric versus Intestinal Fermenters 533
  - Size and Fermentation 535
- Digesting Toxins 535

## OVERVIEW 535

**CHAPTER fourteen****THE UROGENITAL SYSTEM 538**

## INTRODUCTION 538

## URINARY SYSTEM 538

- Structure of the Mammalian Kidney 538
- Embryonic Development 540
  - Nephrotome to Nephric Tubules 540
  - Tripartite Concept of Kidney Organization 541
- Kidney Phylogeny 544
  - Fishes 544
  - Tetrapods 545
- Kidney Function and Structure 546
  - Excretion: Removing the Products of Nitrogen Metabolism 546
  - Osmoregulation: Regulating Water and Salt Balance 548
- Evolution 555
  - Preadaptation 555
  - Origin of Vertebrates 555

## REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM 556

- Structure of the Mammalian Reproductive System 556

Embryonic Development	556
<i>Gonads and Gametes</i>	556
<i>Reproductive Tracts</i>	558
<i>Overview</i>	558
Female Reproductive System	560
<i>Ovary</i>	560
<i>Genital Ducts</i>	560
<i>Oviduct</i>	562
<i>Uterus</i>	563
Male Reproductive System	565
<i>Testis</i>	565
<i>Genital Ducts</i>	565
<i>Copulatory Organs</i>	568
Cloaca	572
Urinary Bladder	577
Function and Evolution	578
<i>Potency and Fertility</i>	578
<i>External and Internal Fertilization</i>	579
<i>Delays in Gestation</i>	581
OVERVIEW	583

## CHAPTER **fifteen**

### THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM 585

---

SURVEY OF ENDOCRINE ORGANS	585
Thyroid Gland	585
<i>Structure and Phylogeny</i>	585
<i>Function</i>	587
Ultimobranchial Body and Parathyroid Gland	589
<i>Ultimobranchial Body</i>	589
<i>Parathyroid Gland</i>	589
<i>Form and Function</i>	591
Adrenal Gland	591
<i>Structure and Phylogeny</i>	591
<i>Function</i>	594
Pancreatic Islets	595
<i>Structure and Phylogeny</i>	595
<i>Function</i>	595
Pituitary Gland	597
<i>Structure</i>	597
<i>Phylogeny</i>	597
<i>Function</i>	600
Gonads	603
Pineal Gland	603
Secondary Endocrine Organs	603
<i>Gastrointestinal Tract</i>	604
<i>Kidneys</i>	604
ENDOCRINE COORDINATION	605
Mammalian Reproduction	605
<i>Male</i>	605
<i>Female</i>	606
Metamorphosis in Frogs	612

Fundamentals of Hormonal Control	613
<i>Functional and Structural Linkage</i>	613
<i>Target Tissue Responses</i>	614
The Endocrine System and the Environment	614

EVOLUTION 615

OVERVIEW 616

## CHAPTER **sixteen**

### THE NERVOUS SYSTEM 618

---

INTRODUCTION 618

Types of Cells within the Nervous System	618
<i>Neuroglia</i>	618
<i>Neurons</i>	619
Transmission of Information	619
Neurosecretory Cells	621

PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM 621

Spinal Nerves	622
Cranial Nerves	623
Evolution	630
Functions of the Peripheral Nervous System	632
<i>Spinal Reflexes</i>	632
<i>The Autonomic Nervous System</i>	633

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM 638

Embryology	639
Spinal Cord	639
<i>Spinal Reflexes</i>	642
<i>Spinal Tracts</i>	642
Brain	643
<i>Phylogeny</i>	643
<i>Form and Function</i>	644
<i>Functional Associations of Parts of the Central Nervous System</i>	658

OVERVIEW 660

## CHAPTER **seventeen**

### SENSORY ORGANS 663

---

INTRODUCTION 663

COMPONENTS OF A SENSORY ORGAN 664

GENERAL SENSORY ORGANS 664

Free Sensory Receptors	664
Encapsulated Sensory Receptors	665
Associated Sensory Receptors	665
<i>Proprioception</i>	665
Mechanisms of Perceiving Stimuli from General Sensory Receptors	666

## SPECIAL SENSORY ORGANS 666

- Chemoreceptors 666
  - Nasal Passages* 667
  - Vomeronasal Area* 669
  - Mouth* 670
  - Radiation Receptors* 671
  - Photoreceptors* 673
  - Infrared Receptors* 684
- Mechanoreceptors 684
  - Lateral Line System* 685
  - Vestibular Apparatus* 686
  - Auditory System* 688
  - Functions of the Ear* 689
- Electroreceptors 698
  - Structure and Phylogeny* 698
  - Form and Function* 699
- Additional Special Sensory Organs 701

## OVERVIEW 701

**CHAPTER eighteen****CONCLUSIONS 706**

## INTRODUCTION 706

## STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS 709

## FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS 710

- How Does It Work? 710
- Functional Coupling, Functional Compromise 711

## Multiple Functions 712

## Performance 713

## ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS 714

## EVOLUTIONARY ANALYSIS 714

- Historical Constraints 714
- Primitive and Advanced 714
- Diversity of Type/Unity of Pattern 715
- Mosaic Evolution 717
- Morphology and Modules 717

## MODE AND TEMPO OF EVOLUTION 719

- Remodeling 720
- Embryonic Changes 721
- Hox* Genes 721
- Evolutionary Significance 722

## THE PROMISE OF VERTEBRATE MORPHOLOGY 722

## APPENDIX A 725

## APPENDIX B 727

## APPENDIX C 730

## APPENDIX D 734

## GLOSSARY 738

## CREDITS 752

## INDEX 757