

groups they review. When the magnitude of such phases of environmental instability in the temperate and tropical zones is compared over long periods of time, however, then evidently the tropics are more stable.

Three further comments about this volume are: First, the book is replete with spelling and typographic errors. Second, several of the more specialized contributions could advantageously have been replaced by more general reviews of evolutionary phenomena at the species level. The state of our knowledge of such topics as the significance of polymorphism or the effects of natural selection in the tropics is more advanced than a nonspecialist reader would suspect from perusing the book. The third is that, with a couple of notable exceptions, the contributors to this symposium have dealt only with the forested wet tropics, which constitute only a portion of the environments to be found under tropical latitudes. In conclusion, I am tempted to disagree with Cain's concluding remark that this symposium "will enable us to see what the basic problems are, and something of how to start work on them." Instead, I would say that the book enables us to see how ill-defined the basic problems are in the minds of several biologists working on speciation in tropical environments.

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