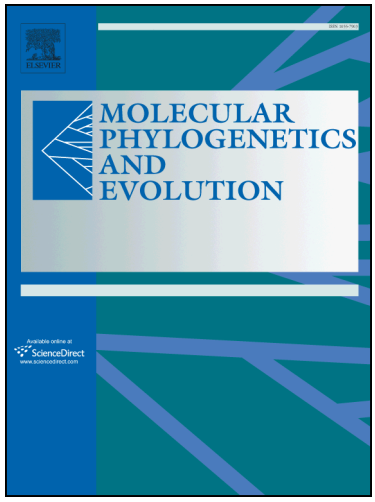

Phylogeny Mandalas for Illustrating the Tree of Life

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Phylogeny Mandalas for Illustrating the Tree of Life

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> In 1973, the famous evolutionary geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky encapsulated a fundamental biological truth in one pithy statement: "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution." It is equally true, in turn, that much in evolution makes even more sense in the light of phylogeny.
>
> John C. Avise, 2006

> The stream of heredity makes phylogeny; in a sense, it is phylogeny. Complete genetic analysis would provide the most priceless data for the mapping of this stream.
>
> George Gaylord Simpson, 1945

> We can understand, on the genealogical view of classification, systematists have found rudimentary parts as useful as, or even sometimes more useful than, parts of high physiological importance. Rudimentary organs may be compared with the letters in a word, still retained in the spelling, but become useless in the pronunciation, but which serve as a clue in seeking for its derivation.
>
> Charles Darwin, 1859

> The same adaptive character may coexist in two groups which have a similar mode of life, without indicating any affinity between them, because it may have been acquired by each independently, to enable it to fill a similar place in nature. In such cases it is found to be an almost isolated character, apparently connecting two groups which otherwise differ radically. Non-adaptive, or purely structural characters, on the other hand, are such as have probably been transmitted from a remote ancestor; and thus indicate fundamental peculiarities of growth and development.
>
> Alfred Russel Wallace, 1878