

## DARWIN'S AXIOM: AXIS IN BIOLOGY

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*Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) is regarded and will be revered as long as the civilization exists, for his theory of evolution by 'Natural Selections'. The present article deals with events and circumstances contributing towards the development of theory of evolution by Darwin. The voyage of HMS Beagle for five years took Darwin to different parts of the world and became the most consequential voyage in the history of biology. In course of his visit along the coasts of South America and a small group of volcanic islands, the Galapagos, the concept of evolution dawned to him. If the advantageous variation is favoured by the nature, it continues through generations and variants become separated in space and time into a new species. Thus Darwin brought in the concept of mutability of species which contradicted the biblical concept of creation or fixity of a species. After more than 20 years of the completion of HMS Beagle voyage, Darwin compiled his observations and experimentations in "The Origin of Species" in 1859. By that time Alfred Russel Wallace made independent and parallel discovery of the principle of natural selection. Darwin's book "The Origin of Species" stirred up controversy. The defenders of the theory of evolution by Darwin gradually brought a great social reform against authority of Church in education and science. The theory of evolution inspired the cell theory by Virchow. Darwin's concept of evolution by natural selection and cell theory became major unifying factor in biology. Then gene science, DNA structure, recombinant DNA technology, genomics and proteomics ushered the modern era of biology. Darwin's theory inspired the scientists from his time to modernity in seeking principles of order in the natural world.*

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