Classes #20: Sociobiology, introduction  
Friday Oct 28, 2005

Reading:


Study questions:


2. What is the primary analytical tool of a sociobiologist? (I don’t mean a computer! See p 10.)

3. What simple experiment on the function of aggregations of whirligig beetles (fig 1.2) was carried out by Watt and Chapman, and what was the result? Was their question “proximate” or “ultimate” in nature, as these terms are defined by Alcock?

4. Which kind of question (proximate or ultimate) is more important?

5. How did the evolutionary analysis of behavior begin?

6. Why is variation within species so important for evolution?

7. Did E. O. Wilson invent the field of Sociobiology? Discuss.