

Convergent Evolution Encyclopedia Article

Convergent Evolution

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Contents

Convergent Evolution Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Convergent Evolution.....	3

Convergent Evolution

Convergent evolution is a term used to describe similarities in organisms that are evolutionarily unrelated. Selective pressures within an environment can produce similar structures in unrelated species. For example, the wings of birds and insects are structurally the same because laws of aerodynamics are universal.

Convergent evolution creates problems for those using evolutionary patterns to try to answer questions relating to taxonomy. It can provide evidence of false relationships and incorrect evolutionary pathways.