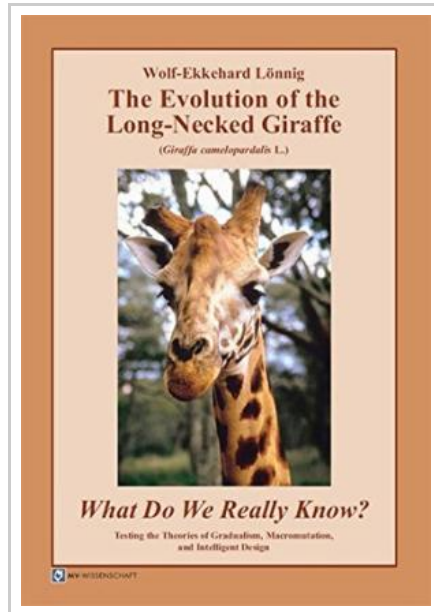




The Evolution of the Long-Necked Giraffe Giraffa camelopardalis L. What do we really know Testing the Theories of Gradualism, Macromutation, and Intelligent Design

By Wolf-Ekkehard Lönning

Verlagshaus Monsenstein und Vannerdat OHG. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 144 pages. Dimensions: 9.9in. x 6.9in. x 0.5in. Darwin (1871) and many African folk legends before him . . . proposed a simple but powerful explanation for the large and elongated shape. Long necks allowed giraffe to outreach presumed competitors, particularly during dry-season bottlenecks when leaves become scarce; (Simmons and Scheepers). However, this old African folk legend which is still commonly taught in high schools, fails to explain, among other things, the size differences between males and females. Giraffe cows are up to 1.5 meters shorter than the giraffe bulls, not to mention the offspring. The wide migration range of the giraffe and the low heights of the most common plants in their diet likewise argue against the dominant selection hypothesis. Also: 1) The fossil links, which according to the theory should appear successively and replace each other, usually exist simultaneously for long periods of time. 2) Evolutionary derivations based on similarities rely on circular reasoning. 3) The giraffe has eight cervical vertebrae. Although the 8th vertebra displays almost all the characteristics of a neck vertebra, as an exception to the rule the first rib pair is attached there....



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