

Peer Review

Review of: "The Dual Role of Culture in Evolutionary Play: Anthropogenic Expansion vs. Destruction of Biodiversity"

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1. Independent researcher

Thanks to the author for providing an article rich in valuable information, which is often neglected in mainstream curricula. You are right to mention that a majority of biology students and teachers are not aware of the human hands in creating novel species and subspecies of plants and animals. The new genes arising after the domestication of dogs and rice, for example, are largely unknown to the students, who are usually taught that these domesticated animals and plants are all products of natural selection, with no role of humans in shaping their genomes. Your mention of the fascinating Russian experiment with fox domestication convinced me, as a reader, of the power of anthropogenic selection pressure on a wild species to evolve with a goal. I feel that an additional line to articulate the difference between the non-teleonomic (Darwinian) natural selection and goal-directed artificial selection could be beneficial for non-specialist readers.

The human contribution to the modification of the so-called "pristine" ecosystems like the Amazonian rainforest is rarely discussed in biology curricula in India, nor in popular science writings in India.

I am particularly impressed by your article's lucidity of language. All the jargon is well explained, making the concepts accessible to non-technical readers. I would solicit the educators of South Asia to consider including this essay in the recommended texts for undergraduate-level biology students.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.