

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
1. Origin of Marine Chordates	1
1.1. Introduction.....	4
1.2. Fundamental Characteristics of Chordata.....	4
1.3. Theories About Origin of Chordates.....	5
1.4. General Characters of Chordata.....	7
1.5. Geological Time Scale.....	7
1.6. Geological Time Scale of Chordate	12
1.7. Protochordata: Characteristic Features and Classification.....	14
1.8. Comparative Morphology of Protochordates.....	20
2. Bony Fishes	22
2.1. Characteristic Features of Osteichthyes.....	23
2.2. Outline Classification of Bony Fishes	24
2.3. Dipnoi Fishes	25
2.4. General Characteristics and Affinities of Dipnoi Fishes	26
2.5. Jawless Vertebrates	28
2.6. Classification of Jawless Vertebrates	29
2.7. Evolution of Jawless Vertebrates	29
2.8. Primitive Vertebrates	31
2.9. Classification of Primitive Vertebrates.....	31
2.10. Evolution of primitive vertebrates	32
2.11. Adaptive Radiation	33
2.12. Adaptive Radiation in Elasmobranchs.....	33
2.13. Evolution in Elasmobranchs.....	34

2.14. Adaptive Radiation in Bony Fishes.....	34
2.15. Evolution of Bony Fishes.....	38
3. Marine Reptiles and Birds	39
3.1. General Characteristics of Marine Reptiles.....	40
3.2. Classification of Marine Reptiles.....	41
3.3. Reptilian Features of Seymouria	43
3.4. Mammal Like Reptiles	44
3.5. Sea Snakes.....	46
3.6. Marine Turtles	47
3.7. Marine Aves	49
3.8. General Characteristics of Marine Aves.....	50
3.9. Classification of Marine Aves.....	51
3.10. Marine Birds	52
3.11. Marine Bird Groups.....	53
3.12. Role of Marine Birds.....	55
3.13. Migration in Marine Birds	56
3.14. Aerial Adaptations in Marine Birds.....	57
3.15. Importance of Marine Birds	58
3.16. Evolutionary History	59
4. Marine Mammals	61
4.1. Characteristics of Marine/Aquatic Mammals	63
4.2. Classification of Marine/Aquatic Mammals	64
4.3. Adaptations and Evolution of Cetacea.....	65
4.4. Adaptations and Evolution of Sirenia	67
4.5. Adaptations for Life in the Sea Vs Marine Mammals.....	68
4.6. Biological Importance of Marine Mammals.....	70
References	72
