



Was
Darwin
Wrong?

But is it Science ?

the philosophical question in the creation/evolution controversy

review by Gert Korthof

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"But is it Science ?" The philosophical question in the creation/evolution controversy.

edited by Michael Ruse.

Prometheus Books.

1988

406 pages.

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■ About the author:

Michael Ruse was an expert witness in a creation science test case in Arkansas in 1981, wherein a federal judge ruled unconstitutional a state law mandating the reading of creationism alongside evolution in state schools. Michael Ruse is professor of history and philosophy at the University of Guelph, Ontario and the author of eight books, including a trilogy on Darwinism: **The Darwinian Revolution** (1978), **Darwinism Defended** (1982), and **Taking Darwin Seriously** (1986).

Although I include this anthology in the category 'Anti-Creationism', there are articles of creationists (William Paley, Adam Sedgwick and Duane Gish); critics of Darwinism (Karl Popper) and critics of neo-Darwinian gradualism (S.J. Gould). Even critics of Ruse himself are included (Larry Laudan).

Professor Ruse is now at Florida State University.

Further Reading

Recent books by Michael Ruse:

- **Biology and The Foundation of Ethics.** Cambridge University Press, 1999
- **The Darwinian Revolution: Science Red in Tooth and Claw.** 2nd Edition. University of Chicago Press. 1999.
- **Mystery of Mysteries: Is Evolution a Social Construction?** Harvard University Press. 1999.
- **The Evolution Wars: A Guide to the debates.** A B C-CLIO. June 2000.
Chapter 9 "Challenges to orthodoxy: Alternatives to Darwinism" is an anti-Gould chapter (punctuated equilibria).
- **Darwin & God.** Dr.J.Tans lecture, Studium Generale, Maastricht, November 2000.
- **Can a Darwinian Be a Christian? The Relationship between Science and Religion.** Cambridge University Press. 2001
My first impression is that this book is better than I expected, better than for example *Mystery of Mysteries*. It is not academic, but about questions that matter a lot for many people. There is an approving review of this book by Charles Harper in *Nature* **411**, 239-240 (2001).
- **Darwin and Design: Does evolution have a purpose?** Harvard University Press, 2003. A positive review by Mark Ridley in *Nature* **423**, 686-687. "There is no central argument to unify the book, but Ruse holds a consistently Darwinian position against all its critics. Adaption exists, it matters, it is not explained by God; it is explained, and with exemplary scientific propriety, by natural selection, and is a legitimate topic for scientific research."
- **The Evolution-Creation Struggle.** 2005. Harvard University Press. A history of the evolution-creation controversy with emphasis on elements leading up to this uniquely American controversy.

korthof@wasdarwinwrong.com	home: www.wasdarwinwrong.com	http://home.planet.nl/~gkorthof/korthof9.htm
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