

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451230703321
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Titolo	Morphogenesis and evolution // Keith Stewart Thomson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, New York ; ; Oxford, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , 1988 ©1988
ISBN	0-19-756005-9 1-280-44962-4 9786610449620 0-19-536427-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (163 p.)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Disciplina	574.1/7
Soggetti	Morphogenesis Developmental biology Evolution (Biology) Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 1988.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1. Introduction; 2. Theory, Reduction, and Hierarchy; 3. Development: Pattern and Process; 4. Early Pattern Formation; 5. Example: Early Pattern Formation in Amphibia; 6. Later Pattern Formation: Morphogenesis; 7. Some General Properties of Morphogenetic Systems; 8. Patterns of Evolution; 9. Morphogenesis and Evolution; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Today, developmental and evolutionary biologists are focusing renewed attention on the developmental process, specifically those genetic and cellular factors which influence variation in individual body shape or metabolism. They are attempting to understand better how evolutionary trends and patterns within individuals might be limited and controlled. In this important work, the author reviews the classical literature on embryology, morphogenesis and palaeontology, and presents recent genetic and molecular studies on development. The result is a unique perspective on a set of problems of fundamental importance to developmental and evolutionary biologists.

