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Sommario/riassunto

The growing success of molecular methods has challenged traditional
 views of animal evolution and a large number of alternative hypotheses
 are hotly debated today. For the deep metazoan phylogeny project,
 data sets of hitherto unmatched quality and quantity were compiled
 and analysed with innovative bioinformatics tools. The book begins at
 the base of the tree of life to discuss the origin of animals and early
 branches of the phylogenetic tree. The following section presents
 special data sets gained from mitochondrial genomes and from
 morphology, with a focus on nervous systems. The final