

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785797303321
Autore	Pross Addy <1945->
Titolo	What is life? [[electronic resource] ] : how chemistry becomes biology / / by Addy Pross
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, : Oxford University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-283-59747-0 9786613909923 0-19-165088-9 0-19-165089-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (215 p.)
Disciplina	570.1
Soggetti	Life (Biology) Biology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Prologue; 1. Living Things are so Very Strange; 2. The Quest for a Theory of Life; 3. Understanding 'Understanding'; 4. Stability and Instability; 5. The Knotty Origin of Life Problem; 6. Biology's Crisis of Identity; 7. Biology is Chemistry; 8. What is Life?; References and Notes; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; V; W; Y
Sommario/riassunto	Seventy years ago, Erwin Schrodinger posed a simple, yet profound, question: 'What is life?'. How could the very existence of such extraordinary chemical systems be understood? This problem has puzzled biologists and physical scientists both before, and ever since. Living things are hugely complex and have unique properties, such as self-maintenance and apparently purposeful behaviour which we do not see in inert matter. So how does chemistry give rise to biology? Did life begin with replicating molecules, and, if so, what could have led the first replicating molecules up such a path? Now, deve