

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790306803321
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Titolo	The origins of life : from the birth of life to the origin of language // John Maynard Smith and Eors Szathmary
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , 2009 ©1999
ISBN	1-336-03095-X 0-19-160421-6 0-19-164732-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (310 p.)
Disciplina	576.8
Soggetti	Evolution (Biology) Genetic transformation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover Page; Title Page; Copyright Page; Dedication; Preface; Contents; 1 Life and information; 2 The major transitions; 3 From chemistry to heredity; 4 From the RNA world to the modern world; 5 From heredity to simple cells; 6 The origin of eukaryotic cells; 7 The origin of sex; 8 Genetic conflict; 9 Living together; 10 The evolution of many-celled organisms; 11 Animal societies; 12 From animal societies to human societies; 13 The origin of language; Further reading; Glossary; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this fascinating book, John Maynard Smith and Eors Szathmary present an original picture of evolution. They propose that during evolution there have been a number of major transitions in the way in which information is passed between generations. These transitions include the appearance of the first replicating molecules, the emergence of co-operative animal societies, and the unique language ability of humans. Containing many new ideas, this book is contemporary biology on the grandest scale, from the birth of life to the origin of language.