

Speciation

What is speciation?

- The formation of new species.



A species is a population of organisms consisting of similar individuals which can breed together and produce fertile offspring.

The process by which new species develop from existing species is known as speciation.

Important factors which could lead to formation of new species are:

- Geographical isolation of a population which leads to reproductive isolation due to which there is no flow of genes between separated groups of population.
- Genetic drift due to drastic changes in the frequencies of particular genes by chance alone.
- Variations caused in individuals due to natural selection.

Home work

I. Short notes:

1. Lamarckism
2. Darwin's Theory of natural selection

II. Read the following statements and justify same in your own words with the help of suitable examples.

- a. Geographical and reproductive isolation of organisms gradually leads to speciation.