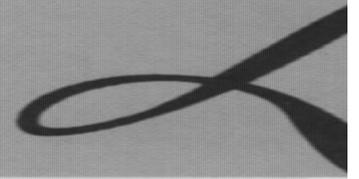


Why We



You may be surprised to learn of a fact, ignored by textbooks and teachers, that tells us most of what we need to understand the nature of biological evolution, why it occurs, why organisms develop specialized cells and tissues, and why species originate to fill various niches in nature. This fact is the catalytic power of enzymes, specialized proteins that accelerate biochemical processes, multiplying their basal rates by factors ranging up to one billion billion (10^{18}) fold.

The concept of the life process as the sum of many hundreds of individual enzyme-catalyzed processes has been with us for at least a century. The immense magnitude of enzymic acceleration was revealed during the 1960s by Daniel Koshland, one-time editor of *Science*, but its far reaching implications are completely ignored.

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