

Abstract

Speciation mostly occur by splitting an ancestral species into two daughter species. Alternatively, new species may arise by hybridization, a phenomenon known as hybrid speciation. This type of speciation is frequent especially in plants, but recently, a growing number of example has been described also in animals. The aim of this thesis is to summarize the current knowledge about hybrid speciation and describe known examples of hybrid speciation in animals. Hybrid speciation in animals is mostly homoploid, e.g. without the change of number of chromosomes. I found 23 homoploid hybrid species in animals. Most of them belong to insects and fishes, but know examples are also among birds and mammals. Origin of species in animals by hybrid speciation seems to be more commons than was previously thought.