

Contents

Preface	xiii
Copyright acknowledgments	xx

Chapter 1	Introduction	1
'The sixth extinction'		2
Why conserve biodiversity?		2
Endangered and extinct species		3
What is an endangered species?		6
What causes extinctions?		7
Recognition of genetic factors in conservation biology		9
What is conservation genetics?		9
How is genetics used to minimize extinctions?		11
Genetic versus demographic and environmental factors in conservation biology		16
What do we need to know to genetically manage threatened species?		16
Methodology in conservation genetics		18
Island theme		19
Sources of information		19
Summary		19
General bibliography		20
Problems		21
Practical exercises: Categorizing endangerment of species		22

Chapter 2	Genetics and extinction	23
Genetics and the fate of endangered species		24
Relationship between inbreeding and extinction		27
Inbreeding and extinction in the wild		29
Relationship between loss of genetic diversity and extinction		36
Summary		39
Further reading		39
Problems		40
Practical exercises: Computer projections		40

SECTION I | **EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS OF NATURAL POPULATIONS**

Chapter 3	Genetic diversity	45
Importance of genetic diversity		46
What is genetic diversity?		47
Measuring genetic diversity		50
Extent of genetic diversity		60

Low genetic diversity in endangered species
What genetic diversity determines evolutionary potential?
Variation over space and time
What explains differences in levels of genetic diversity?
Genetic differences among species
Summary
Further reading
Problems
Practical exercise: Measuring genetic diversity using
microsatellites

Chapter 4 | Characterizing genetic diversity: single loci

Describing genetic diversity
Frequencies of alleles and genotypes
Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium
Expected heterozygosity
Deviations from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium
Extensions of the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium
More than one locus–linkage disequilibrium
Summary
Further reading
Problems

Chapter 5 | Characterizing genetic diversity: quantitative variation

Importance of quantitative characters
Properties of quantitative characters
Basis of quantitative genetic variation
Methods for detecting quantitative genetic variation
Partitioning genetic and environmental variation
Genotype \times environment interaction
The need for contemporary comparisons and control
populations
Partitioning of quantitative genetic variation
Evolutionary potential and heritability
Susceptibility to inbreeding depression
Correlations between molecular and quantitative genetic
variation
Organization of quantitative genetic variation
Summary
Further reading
Problems

Chapter 6 | Evolution in large populations. I. Natural selection and adaptation

The need to evolve
Factors controlling the evolution of populations

Selection	133
Selection on quantitative characters	145
Directional selection	146
Stabilizing selection	149
Disruptive selection	149
Summary	150
Further reading	150
Problems	151
Practical exercises: Computer simulations	152

Chapter 7	Evolution in large populations. II. Mutation, migration and their interactions with selection	154
Factors controlling the evolution of populations		155
Importance of mutation, migration and their interactions with selection in conservation		155
Origin and regeneration of genetic diversity		155
Mutation		156
Selective value of mutations		160
Mutation-selection balance and the mutation load		162
Migration		167
Migration-selection equilibria and clines		169
Summary		173
Further reading		173
Problems		173

Chapter 8	Evolution in small populations	175
Importance of small populations in conservation biology		176
Impact of small population size: chance effects		178
Inbreeding		187
Measuring population size		187
Selection in small populations		190
Mutation in small populations		191
Mutation-selection equilibrium in small populations		192
Computer simulation		193
Summary		194
Further reading		194
Problems		195
Practical exercises: Computer simulations		195

Chapter 9	Maintenance of genetic diversity	197
Conservation of genetic diversity		198
Fate of different classes of mutations		198
Maintenance of genetic diversity in large populations		199
Neutral mutations under random genetic drift		200
Selection intensities vary among characters		203
Balancing selection		204
Maintenance of genetic diversity in small populations		214

Summary
 Further reading
 Problems
 Practical exercises: Computer simulations

SECTION II EFFECTS OF POPULATION SIZE REDUCTION

Chapter 10 Loss of genetic diversity in small populations

Changes in genetic diversity over time
 Relationship between loss of genetic diversity and reduced fitness
 Effects of sustained population size restrictions on genetic diversity
 Relationship between population size and genetic diversity in wild populations
 Effective population size
 Measuring effective population size
 Summary
 Further reading
 Problems
 Practical exercises: Computer simulations

VIII

Chapter 11 Inbreeding

What is inbreeding?
 Conservation concerns with inbreeding
 Inbreeding coefficient (F)
 Genetic consequences of inbreeding
 Inbreeding in small populations
 Pedigrees
 Breeding systems in nature
 Regular systems of inbreeding
 Mutation–selection balance with inbreeding
 Inbreeding in polyploids
 Relationship between inbreeding, heterozygosity, genetic diversity and population size
 Summary
 Further reading
 Problems

Chapter 12 Inbreeding depression

Inbreeding depression in naturally outbreeding species
 Inbreeding depression in the wild
 Inbreeding depression due to small population size
 Inbreeding and extinction
 Characteristics of inbreeding depression
 Genetic basis of inbreeding depression
 Purging

Detecting and measuring inbreeding depression	299
Inbreeding and population viability	302
Recovering from inbreeding depression	305
Summary	307
Further reading	307
Problems	308

Chapter 13	Population fragmentation	309
Habitat fragmentation		310
Population fragmentation		310
Population structure		312
Completely isolated population fragments		314
Measuring population fragmentation: F statistics		324
Gene flow among population fragments		327
Measuring gene flow		330
Impacts of different population structures on reproductive fitness		332
Summary		333
Further reading		334
Problems		334

Chapter 14	Genetically viable populations	336
Shortage of space for threatened species		337
How large?		339
Retaining reproductive fitness		339
Retaining evolutionary potential		341
How large are threatened populations?		343
What happens to species with $N_e < 500$?		344
Retaining single locus diversity in the long term		348
Time to regenerate genetic diversity		349
Avoiding accumulation of new deleterious mutations		349
Genetic goals in the management of wild populations		351
Genetic goals in management of captive populations – a compromise		352
The fallacy of small surviving populations		356
Summary		357
Further reading		358
Problems		358

SECTION III FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Chapter 15	Resolving taxonomic uncertainties and defining management units	365
Importance of accurate taxonomy in conservation biology		366
What is a species?		370
Sub-species		371
Higher taxonomic categories		371

How do species arise?
Use of genetic markers in delineation of sympatric species
Use of genetic markers in delineation of allopatric species
Measuring differences between populations: genetic distance
Constructing phylogenetic trees
Outbreeding depression
Defining management units within species
Summary
Further reading
Problems
Practical exercise: Building a phylogenetic tree

Chapter 16 | Genetics and the management of wild populations

Genetic issues in wild populations
Resolving taxonomy and management units
Increasing population size
Diagnosing genetic problems
Recovering small inbred populations with low genetic diversity
Genetic management of fragmented populations
Genetic issues in reserve design
Introgression and hybridization
Impacts of harvesting
Genetic management of species that are not outbreeding
diploids
Summary
Further reading
Problems

Chapter 17 | Genetic management of captive populations

Why captive breed?
Stages in captive breeding and reintroduction
Founding captive populations
Growth of captive populations
Genetic management of captive populations
Current genetic management of captive populations
Captive management of groups
Ex situ conservation of plants
Reproductive technology and genome resource banks
Managing inherited diseases in endangered species
Summary
Further reading
Problems

Chapter 18 | Genetic management for reintroduction

Reintroductions
Genetic changes in captivity that affect reintroduction success

Genetic adaptation to captivity	452
Genetic management of reintroductions	459
How successful are reintroductions?	463
Supportive breeding	465
Case studies in captive breeding and reintroduction	466
Summary	469
Further reading	470
Problems	470

Chapter 19	Use of molecular genetics in forensics and to understand species biology	471
Forensics: detecting illegal hunting and collecting		472
An understanding of species' biology is critical to its conservation		474
Gene trees and coalescence		475
Population size and demographic history		480
Gene flow and population structure		485
Reintroduction and translocation		491
Reproduction, parentage, founder relationships and sexing		492
Disease		498
Diet		499
Summary		499
Further reading		500
Problems		500

Chapter 20	The broader context: population viability analysis (PVA)	502
What causes endangerment and extinction?		503
Predicting extinction probabilities: population viability analysis (PVA)		506
Recovering threatened populations		516
How useful are the predictions of PVA?		520
Lessons learned		523
Minimum viable population sizes (MVP)		524
Summary		526
Further reading		526
Problems		527
Practical exercises: Population viability analyses		527

Take home messages from this book	529
Revision problems	531
Glossary	533
Answers to problems	546
References	567
Index	607