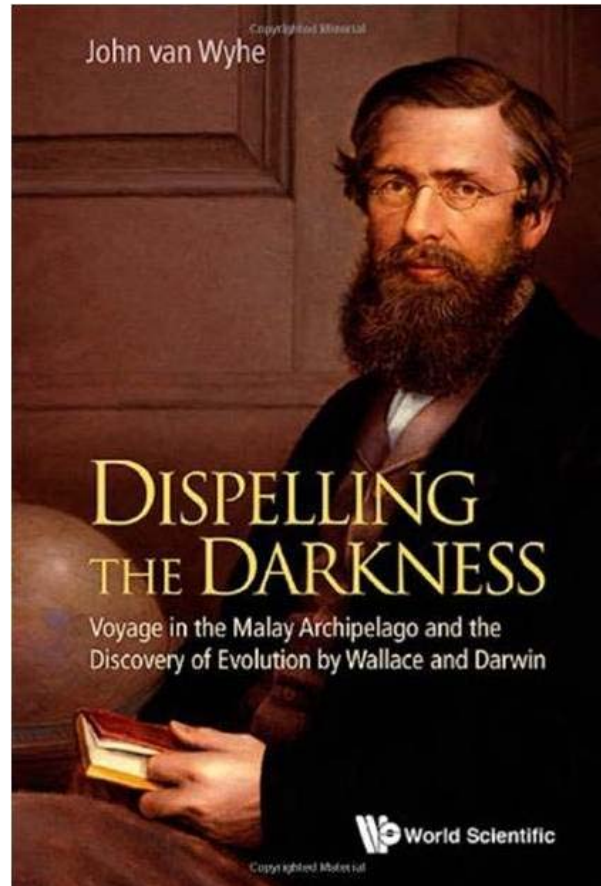


'Dispelling the Darkness: Voyage in the Malay Archipelago and the Discovery of Evolution by Wallace and Darwin' by John van Wyhe.

Dr. van Wyhe (History) rewrites the story of how evolution was discovered by Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace.

While Darwin is one of the most famous scientists in history, he was not alone in the discovery of the theory of evolution. Comparatively forgotten, fellow naturalist Alfred Wallace independently discovered evolution by natural selection during his eight-year travel in the Malay Archipelago. Wallace drafted an essay to explain his discovery and mailed it to Darwin. Uncertainties about postal delivery dates had fuelled several conspiracies about the relationship between Darwin and Wallace. Did Darwin borrow or plagiarise from Wallace? Were their theories really the same? Following the route of the fateful letter from Asia to the UK in the 1850s, Dr van Wyhe solved the puzzle and shows there is no mystery, and both men independently reached the very similar conclusions. In his book, Dr van Wyhe also addresses the mystery of how and where exactly Wallace had discovered natural selection. Through careful study of widely scattered historical documents, Dr van Wyhe reveals that the island of Ternate near New Guinea was where Wallace had his eureka moment, in the midst of a malarial fever. "Although the theory of evolution story has been told thousands of times in books and documentaries, several long-standing mysteries and many myths and legends have distorted our picture of the most important revolution in the history of science. This book aims to shed light on Wallace's less well-known voyage and reveal the true story of how evolution was unveiled to the world," said Dr John van Wyhe.



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