



Simposio Internacional: Evolución por cooperación. La obra de Lynn Margulis (1938-2011)

International Symposium: *Evolution by cooperation. The work of Lynn Margulis (1938-2011)*

Madrid, 12 y 13 de noviembre de 2012

Madrid, November 12-13, 2012

Natural History museums: producing, preserving and disseminating science

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The Natural History Museum of Barcelona was created at the end of the 19th century as Barcelona's first public museum. It is currently distributed in different venues located in three strategic areas of the city. The new permanent exhibit of the Museum, "Planeta Vida" (*Planet Life*), is located in the newest one: the Museu Blau (*Blue Museum*). The Museum's mission is to generate and share knowledge with the aim of creating a society that is better informed, more connected and more responsible towards nature. It does this by maintaining collections that are the tangible witnesses of the natural heritage of Catalonia, doing research on biological and geological diversity, and creating experiences that encourage as many people as possible to explore, learn, love, enjoy, enter the dialogue and participate. The Earth, as we know it today, is the result of a process of interactions with the physical and chemical environment of the planet and its living beings. The rivers, the mountains, the lakes and the oceans are intimately linked to the organisms that live there, and together, they make up a global ecosystem that regulates the conditions of the planet. This joint vision of the Earth and life, which integrates all the disciplines of the natural sciences, held by Lynn Margulis and James Lovelock, is the backbone of the Planeta Vida exhibit, which displays the most advanced scientific knowledge on this subject. This is explained through the collections of the museum and using state-of-the-art technological resources. Visitors learn through the interactive screens and the audiovisual materials that are found throughout the exhibit. Planeta Vida is structured around three major concepts—Biography of the Earth, The Earth Today, and Islands of Science—and constitutes a space for exploring, discovering and getting excited by the phenomena of nature. Planeta Vida offers a journey through the milestones of the joint evolution of the Earth and life, including geological and biological phenomena and showing the fascinating diversity of nature.

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