



Green Books

# Author Information

## LYNN MARGULIS & DORION SAGAN

### Dazzle Gradually

#### Reflections on the Nature of Nature



Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1983. She received from William J. Clinton the National Medal of Science in 1999. Prior to her move to the University of Massachusetts she was a faculty member at Boston University for 22 years.

Professor Margulis, who participates in hands-on teaching activities at levels from middle to graduate school, is the author of many articles and books. Recent publications include *Symbiotic Planet: A New Look at Evolution* (1998), *Acquiring Genomes: A Theory of the Origins of Species* (2002), co-written with Dorion Sagan, explains how symbiosis works in evolution, and *Luminous Fish: Tales of Science and Love* (2006). Indeed, over the past decade and a half, Professor Margulis has co-written a number of books with Sagan, among them

*What is Sex?* (1997), *What is Life?* (1995), *Mystery Dance: On the Evolution of Human Sexuality* (1991), *Microcosmos: Four Billion Years of Evolution From Our Microbial Ancestors* (1986), and *Origins of Sex: Three Billion Years of Genetic Recombination* (1986).

Her work with K. V. Schwartz (1998) provides a consistent, formal, illustrated classification of all life (phyla) on Earth, and is in progress with the 4th edition. It is based on international work and encompasses life's immense diversity from microbes to reef-building corals. The logical basis for it is summarized in her single-authored book *Symbiosis in Cell Evolution: Microbial Communities in the Archean and Proterozoic Eons* (second edition, 1993).



Dorion Sagan is the author of numerous articles and sixteen books translated into eleven languages, including *Into the Cool: Energy Flow, Thermodynamics, and Life* (with Eric D. Schneider, 2005) and *Up from Dragons: Evolution of Human Intelligence* (with John Skoyles, 2002). His *What is Life?* (with Lynn Margulis) was chosen (with works by Billie Holiday, Shakespeare, and others) as one of fifty "mind-altering masterpieces" by the Utne Reader. Sagan's essays are included in collections edited by Richard Dawkins and E. O. Wilson. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a degree in history and has interests in philosophy and literature.

Reviewing Sagan's *Microcosmos* in the *New York Times Book Review*, Melvin Konner wrote: "This admiring reader of Carl Sagan, Lewis Thomas, and Stephen Jay Gould has seldom, if ever, seen such a luminous prose style in a work of this kind." Sagan has written

for *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Wired*, *The Skeptical Inquirer*, *The Smithsonian*, *The Ecologist*, *Omni*, *Natural History*, and many others.

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