

THE MAJOR TRANSITIONS IN EVOLUTION

Eörs SZATHMÁRY, CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH, HUNGARY

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Sala Conferenze, ex Ospedale Militare
Via Fabio Severo 40, Trieste and on Zoom

In the course of evolution there have been a number of transitions during which new levels of organization arose and complexity increased. Major evolutionary transitions include the origin of simple cells, emergence of eukaryotes, the origin of plastids (eukaryotic photosynthesis), the appearance of multicellularity, the origin of animal societies, the emergence of human groups with language. All these transitions share a number of features, including the emergence of higher-level evolutionary units from lower ones, the division of labour/combinations of functions, and the origin of novel inheritance systems (such as epigenetic inheritance).