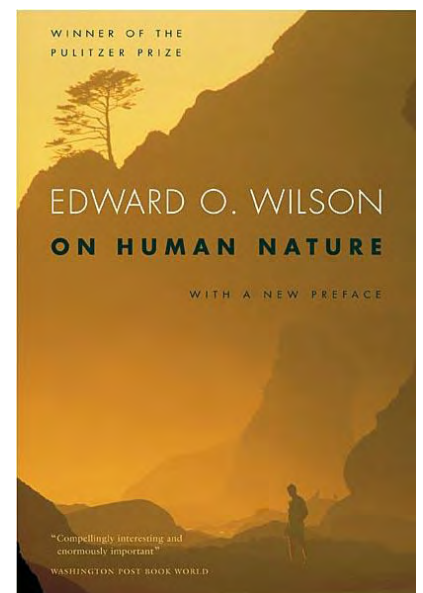
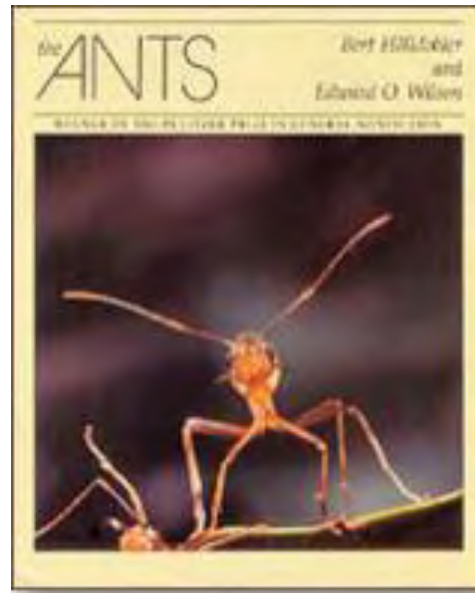
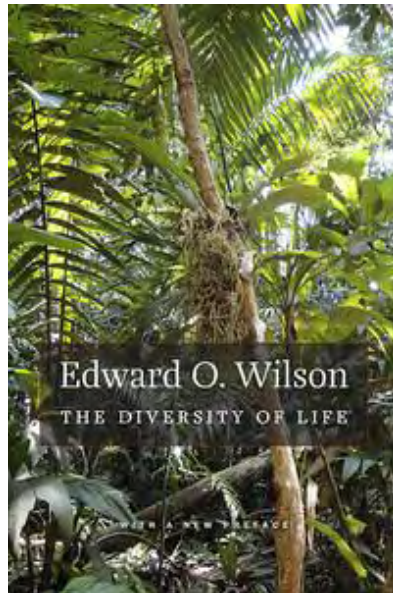
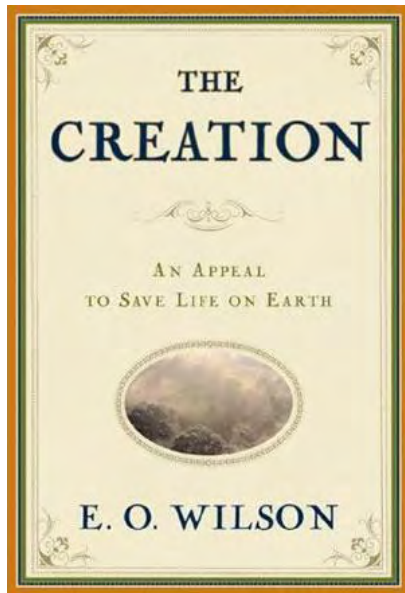




# Edward Osborne “E. O.” Wilson



## From Ants to Human Nature



Born in Birmingham, Alabama,  
June 10, 1929.

Humble beginning.

B.S. (1949) and M.S. (1950)  
University of Alabama

Ph.D. (1955) Harvard University  
(married to his wife, Irene Kelley)

Currently Professor Emeritus  
Harvard University

Author of numerous books and  
articles

Alabama  
1942

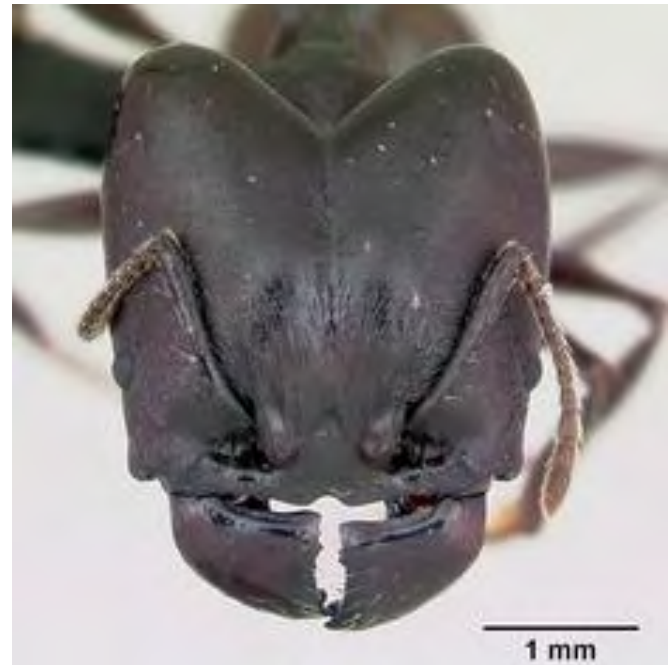


Early work focused on ant diversity and ecology. He continues this research today.



Videos: [E.O. Wilson and ants](#)

The ant genus, *Pheidole*



As he studied ants, he became intrigued with how workers communicate and cooperate with each other.



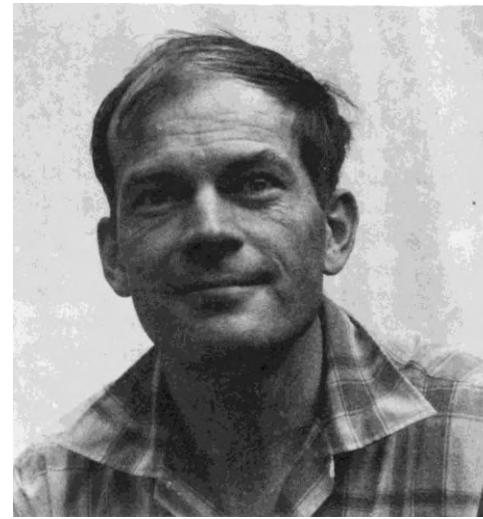
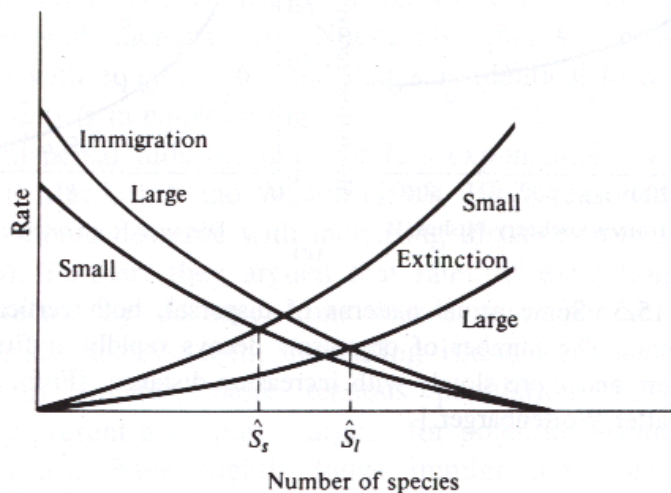
Video: "[Ant Communication](#)" (3:41)

He is the co-founder of the chemical ecology field



His work with ants on pacific islands and Neotropical mountaintops led him to question what determines species distribution and abundance.

Along with Robert MacArthur, he developed the theory of island biogeography



Robert MacArthur  
(Princeton U.)

↑ student of

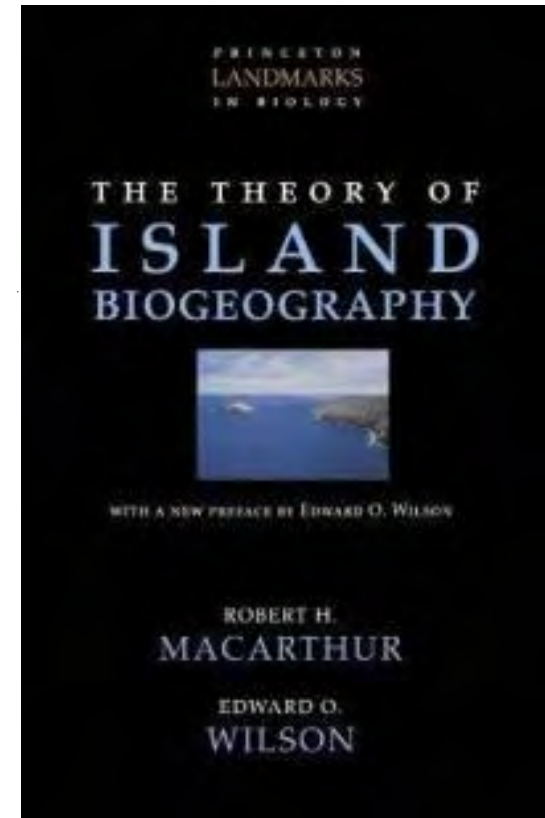
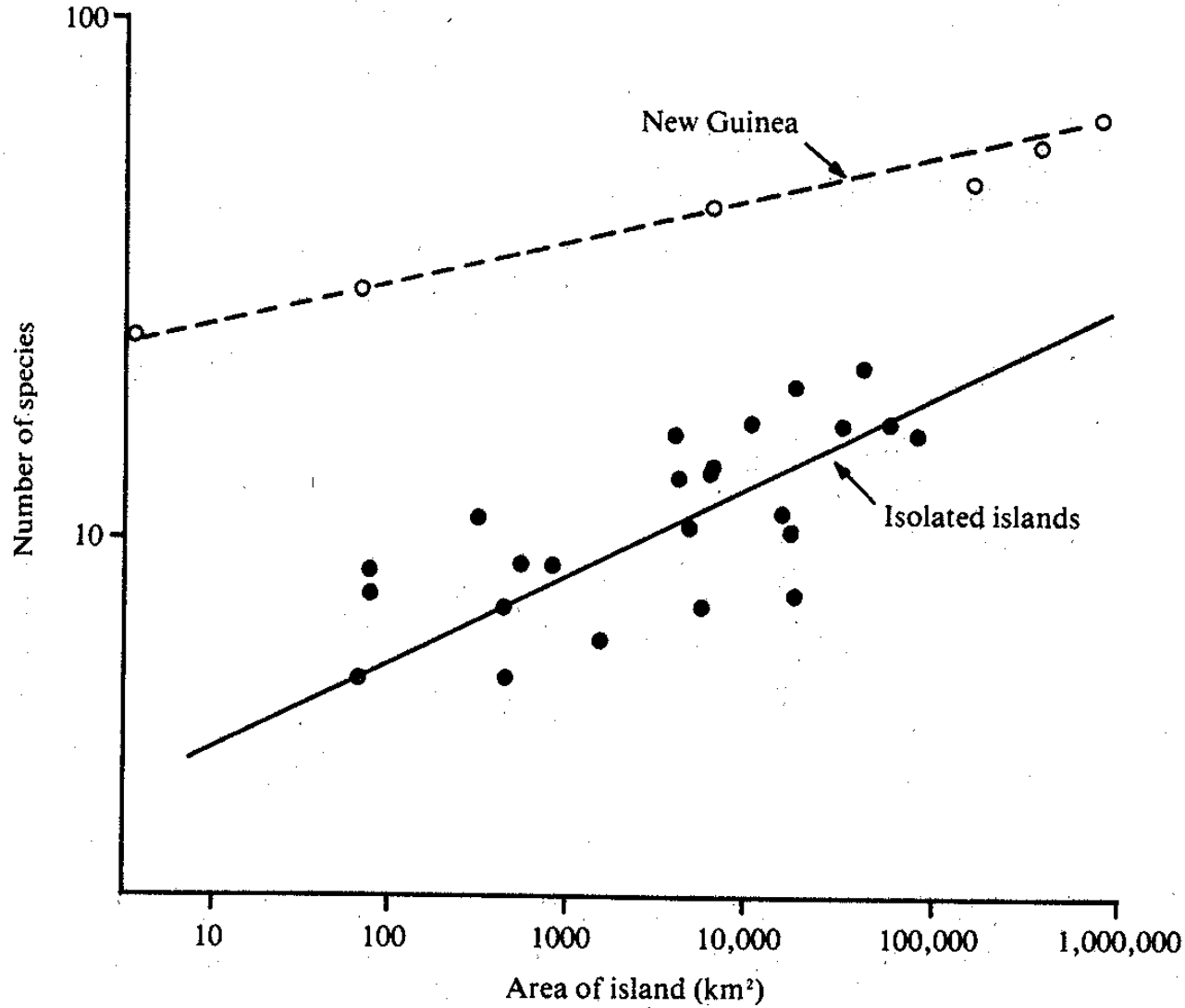


Henry Hespenheide  
(Princeton U.  
and UCLA)

↑ student of

Louis LaPierre  
(UCLA  
and LCC)

# Wilson's data on New Guinea ants

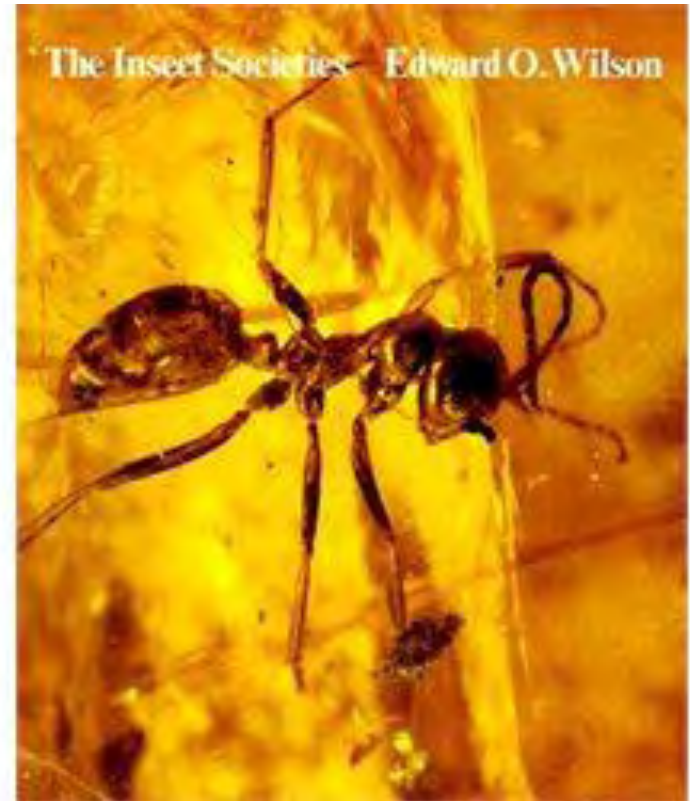


*The Insect Societies* (1971); finalist,  
National Book Award, 1972; 100  
Top Science Books of Century,  
American Scientist, 1999

“No book on biology in the past 20 years  
has been as satisfying as this treatise on  
ants, bees, wasps and termites...

“...mastery of all of biology, from  
paleontology to formal genetics, from  
ethology to biochemistry. Nothing less  
can be an adequate basis for the study of  
our social colleagues on this earth...”

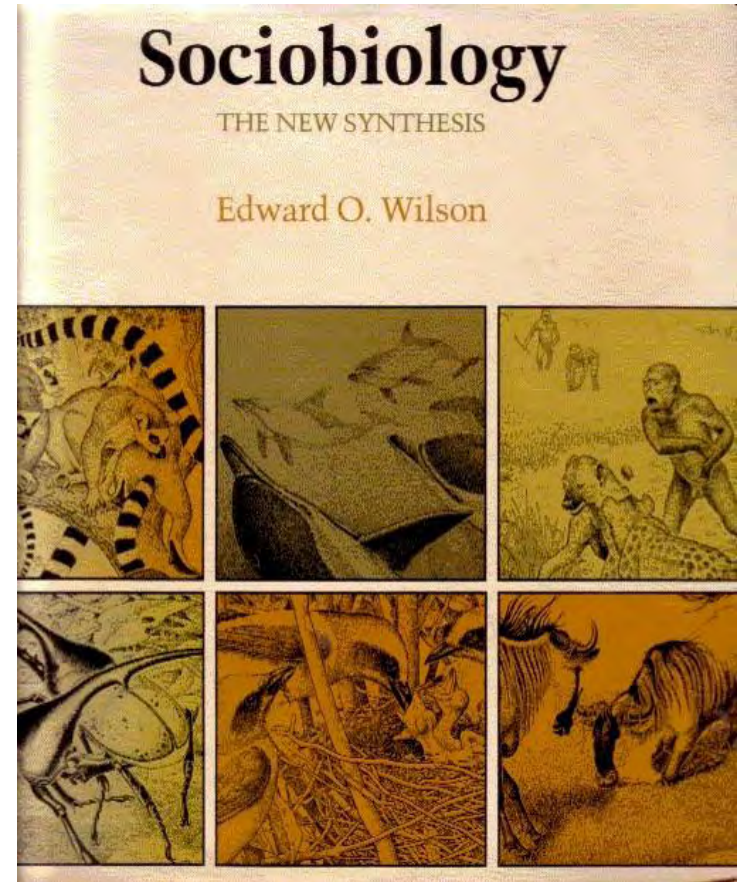
- *Scientific American*



*Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*  
1975; finalist, National Book  
Award, 1976

“[This book] has become the  
framework for a controversial new  
science--the study of the biological  
basis for social behavior in every  
species, from the lowliest amoeba  
colony to modern human behavior.”

- *New York Times* book review

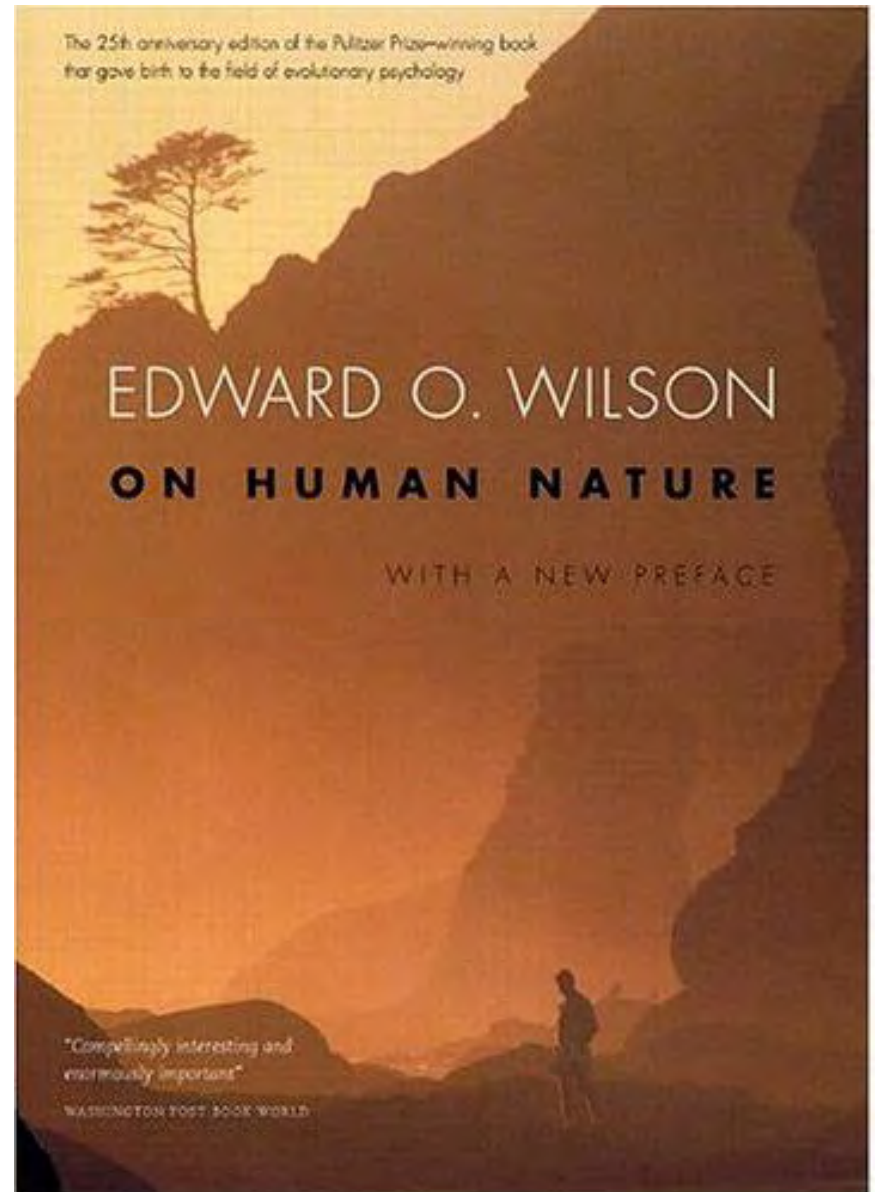




*On Human Nature* (1978);  
Pulitzer Prize, General Non-  
Fiction, 1979

“Wilson is a sophisticated and marvelously humane writer. His vision is a liberating one, and a reader of this splendid book comes away with a sense of the kinship that exists among the people, animals, and insects that share the planet.”

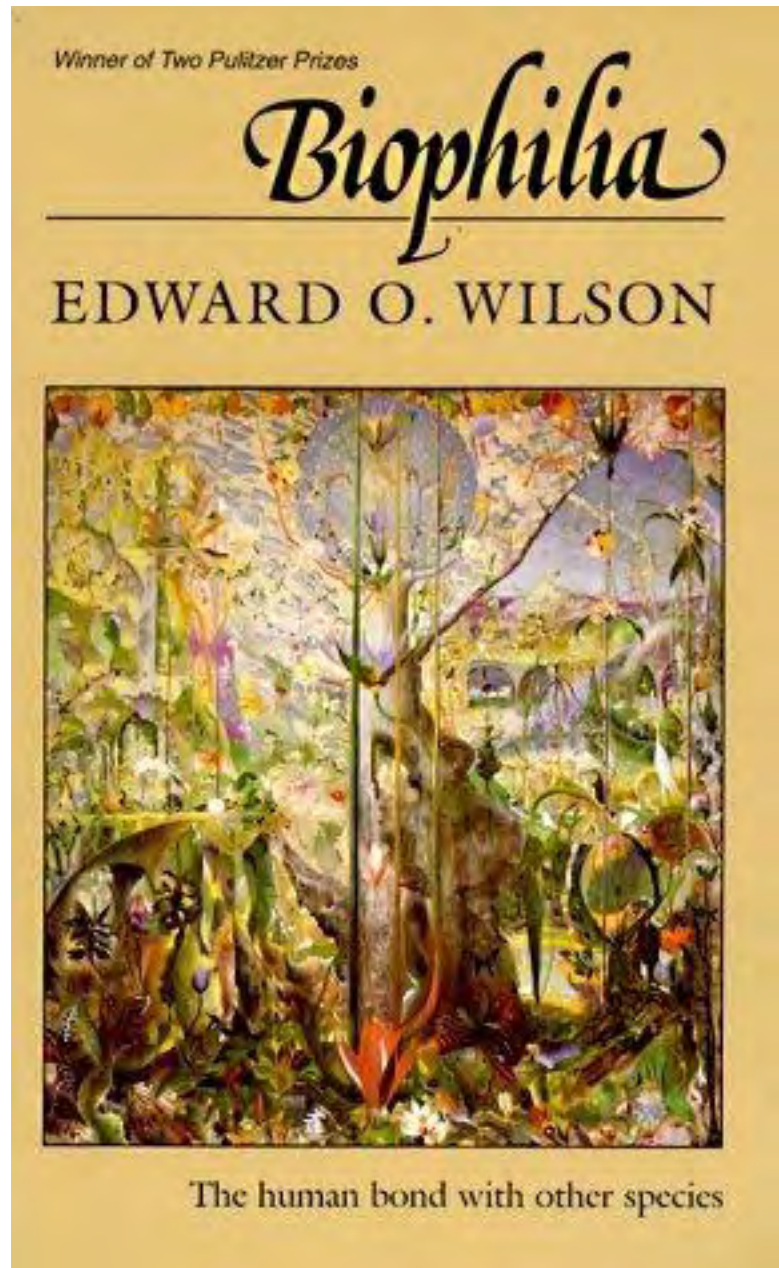
- *New Yorker*



## *Biophilia* (1984)

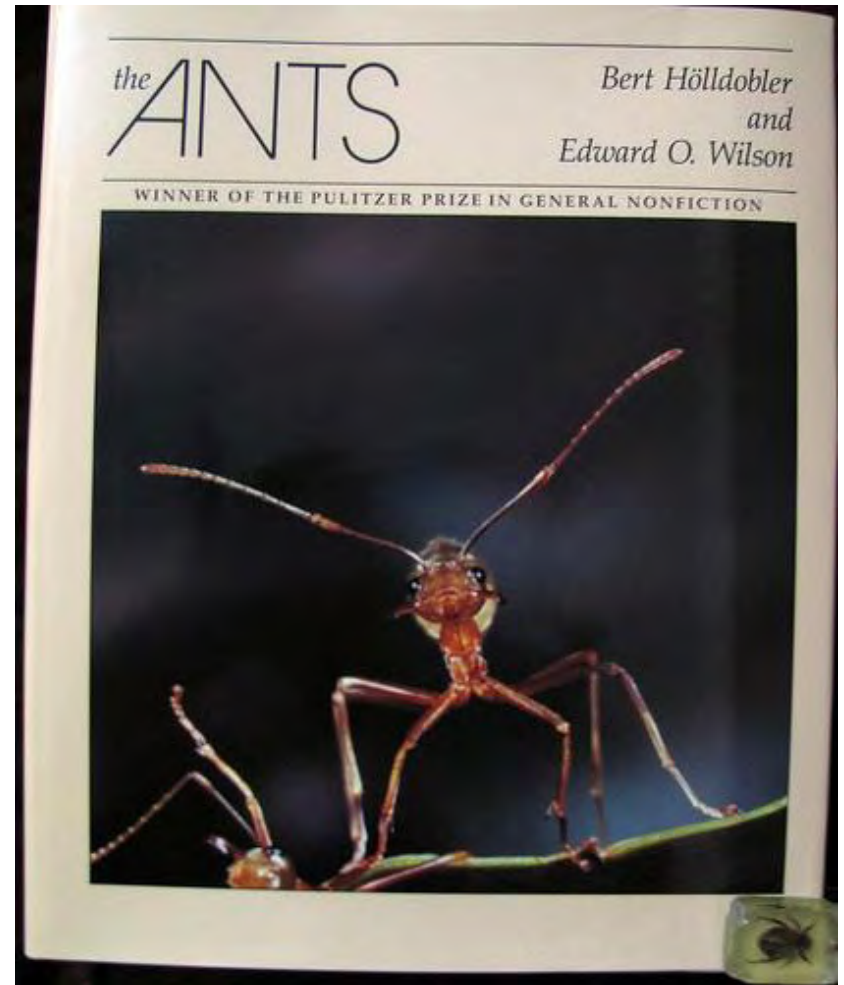
“[*Biophilia* is] the innate tendency [in humans] to focus on life and lifelike process. To an extent still undervalued in philosophy and religion, our existence depends on this propensity, our spirit is woven from it, hopes rise on its currents.”

- *E. O. Wilson*



*The Ants*, with Bert Hölldobler, (1990); Pulitzer Prize, General Non-Fiction, 1991; No.27 in "100 best nonfiction books written in English during the 20th century" (Modern Library)

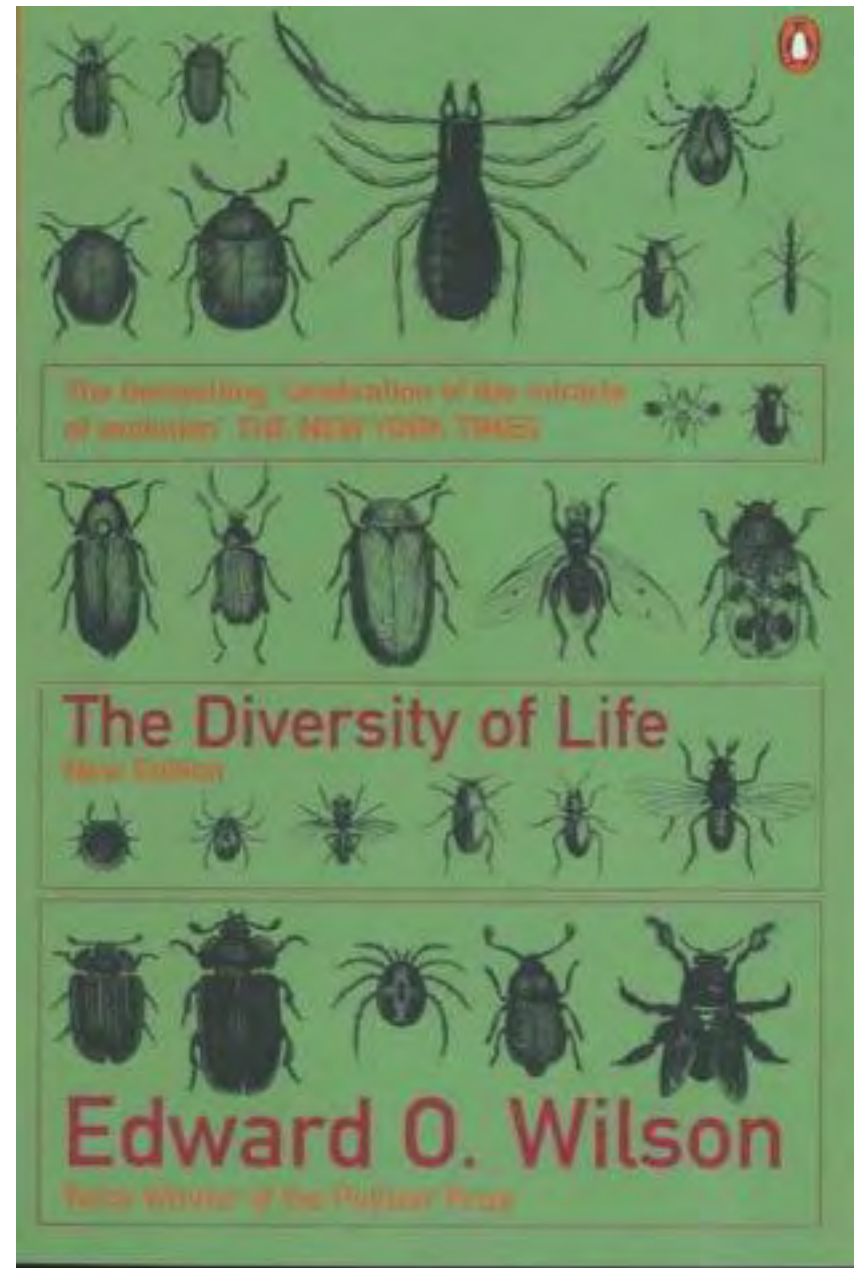
“The beauty of this heavily illustrated tome is that it conveys this message to both the lay reader and the professional entomologist with equal aplomb. For the interested but ignorant, Hölldobler and Wilson provide a gentle introduction into the complex and bizarre reality of life as an ant...This myrmecological bible is a scientific and artistic accomplishment of historic significance.  
--Rick Weiss (*Washington Post*)



*The Diversity of Life* (1992); finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award, 1993; finalist, Rhone-Poulenc Prize; Wildlife Society Book Award, 1993; 200 outstanding books of the Century, N.Y. Public Library, 1995; Reading for the Environment, Deutsche Umweltstiftung, book prize for the German edition, 1998

“In this book a master scientist tells the great story of how life on earth evolved. E.O. Wilson eloquently describes how the species of the world became diverse, and why the threat to this diversity today is beyond the scope of anything we have known before.” (back cover)

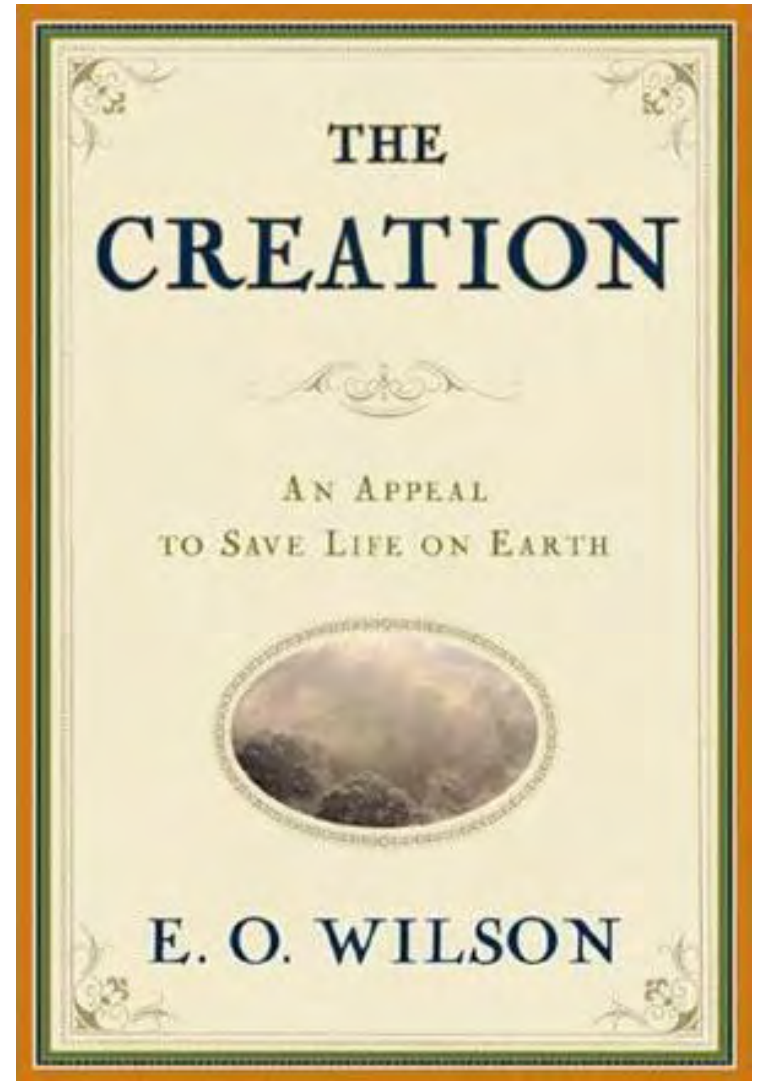
Encyclopedia of Life: <http://www.eol.org/>



*The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth; 2006*

“With his usual eloquence, patience and humor, Wilson, our modern-day Thoreau, adds his thoughts to the ongoing conversation between science and religion. Couched in the form of letters to a Southern Baptist pastor, the Pulitzer Prize–winning entomologist pleads for the salvation of biodiversity, arguing that both secular humanists like himself and believers in God acknowledge the glory of nature and can work together to save it.”

- Publisher's Weekly



*The Leafcutter Ants:*  
*Civilization by Instinct, 2011,*  
with Bert Hölldobler

