# Relationships of Floras (& Faunas)

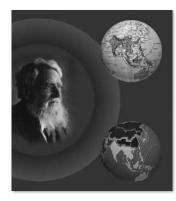
Knowledge of earth and organism histories now permit closer examination of relationships of disjunct floras and faunas.

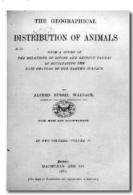
- Southern Hemisphere temperate
- Southern Hemisphere tropics
- the Wallace Line
- Eastern Asian Eastern North American temperate



# The Wallace Line

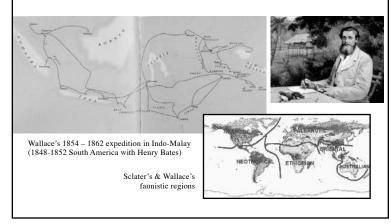
Alfred Wallace, one of the premier zoobiogeographers, wrote the definitive treatise "Distributions of Animals" in 1876 where he summarized the known distributions and causes of their biogeographical patterns





### The Wallace Line

Alfred Wallace's main interest was in the vertebrate fauna of the Indo-Malay Archipelago from Asia to Australia where he clearly saw a sharp faunistic break



# The Wallace Line

"In the archipelago . . . there are **two distinct faunas** rigidly circumscribed, which differ as much as those of South America and Africa, and more than those of Europe and North America" [Letter to Henry Bates in London (1858)]



Probably his most important trip he ever made was a 6 km ferry ride from Bali to Lombok

Wallace's 1854 – 1862 expedition in Indo-Malay (1848-1852 South America with Henry Bates)

Sclater's & Wallace's faunistic regions

# The Wallace Line

"In the archipelago . . . there are **two distinct faunas** rigidly circumscribed, which differ as much as those of South America and Africa, and more than those of Europe and North America" [Letter to Henry Bates in London (1858)]

"The boundary line often passes between islands closer than others in the same group. I believe the western part to be a separated portion of continental Asia, the eastern the fragmentary prolongation of a former Pacific continent"





Looking east from Bali across 6 km Lombok Straits

# The Wallace Line

Wallace graphically depicts what has since been termed the "Wallace Line" in his book by showing birds and mammals that are found in the Oriental (Borneo, left) and Australian (New Guinea, right) sides

tarsier tree shrew Oriental Fauna



raquet-tailed kingfisher

Australian Fauna

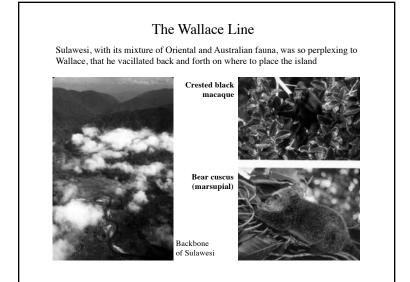
Cover plate from Distributions of Animals

# The Wallace Line

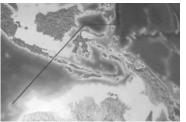


- Wallace Line the imaginary line separating the Oriental and Australian biotas — extends between Bali and Lombok and between Borneo/Philippines and Sulawesi
- · Several other lines have been proposed in the region based on particular groups of animals or
- · Main issue with most lines is what do with Sulawesi (Celebes)





# The Wallace Line





The "Wallace Line" biogeographical riddle was elegantly solved with the continental drift theory of Alfred Wegener and the more recent plate tectonic basis as a mechanism for Earth evolution

# Earth and Life Evolve Together

# The Wallace Line

Now know that the two regions are different continental plates that have been moving independently — the Asian and Australian plates



The IndoMalay - New Guinea Archipelago area includes island groups mostly confined to either of two continental shelves:

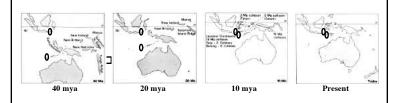
Sunda shelf — Asian

Sahul shelf — Australian

# The Wallace Line

Collision of the Australian plate with the Asian plate occurred between 15-5 mya

Note the origins of Bali and Lombok, forming the Wallace Line



# The Wallace Line Collision of the Australian plate with the Asian plate occurred between 15-5 mya Note the origins of Bali and Lombok, forming the Wallace Line Sulawesi is a hybrid island from both plates!

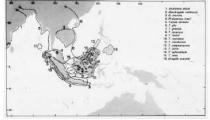
# The Wallace Line – is it real?

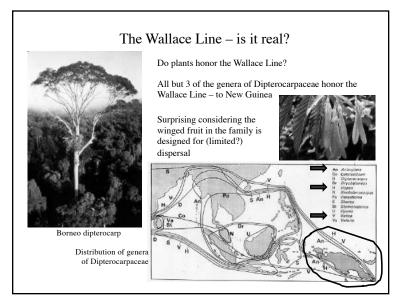


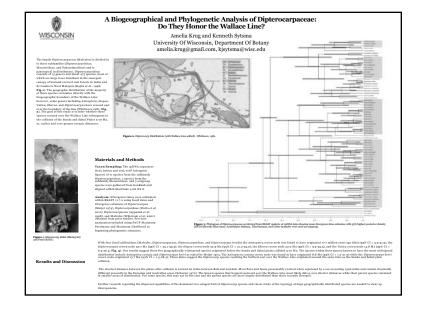
Tree shrews (family Tupaiidae) were indicated by Wallace as honoring this biogeographical line. An Asian group whose entire range gets as far east as Bali and Borneo but not to Lombok or Sulawesi

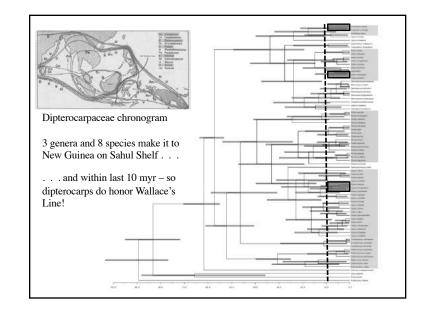


Tree shrew family & individual species distributions







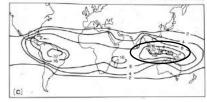


# The Wallace Line – is it real?

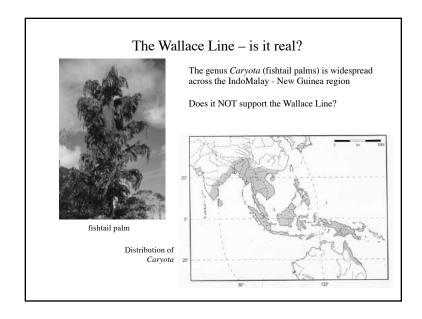


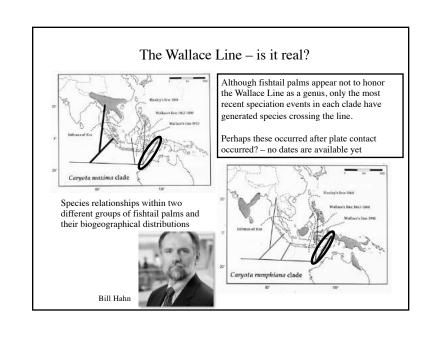
Do palms honor the Wallace Line?

Greatest center of diversity of palms is in the IndoMalay archipelago — how do they respond to the Wallace Line?



# Rattan palms are essentially Asian with all but 3 genera restricted west of Lombok and Sulawesi For the 3 genera east of Wallace Line, only 1 species each crosses the line But timing of these dispersals east are not known Distribution of different genera of rattan palms





# The Wallace Line – is it real?



Gum eucalypt

Eucalyptus (Myrtaceae) is an Australian genus and basically honors the Wallace Line from the east

Date of 4 species in Wallacea not known

