

# LEVELS OF SELECTION, ADAPTATIONS

## Summary

This article shortly discusses why natural selection should be considered at the level of genes, instead of individuals. This standpoint is justified with kin selection theory, the concept of selfish gene and the conflicts within genomes. The reasons for the introduction of group selection are explained and the idea of the adaptation for the good of species is

critically discussed. Two theoretical models of group selection are introduced, and their links with kin selection, disease virulence and human social behaviour are explained. The definition of adaptation according to Williams is given and the distinction between proximate and ultimate factors introduced.