

1858 and All That: The Darwin-Wallace Mystery Solved

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The co-discovery of evolution by natural selection by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace is one of the most famous and also most contentious episodes in the history of science. Accounts vary between an amicable gentlemanly arrangement to plagiarism and coverup. Even the exact date and location of Wallace's discovery has become confused. Was it on the island of Ternate or Gilolo? Was it in February 1858? When did Wallace send his essay to Darwin? Did Darwin lie about its receipt? Several authors have claimed this and more to be the case. In this talk I will lay these mysteries to rest.