

# Biophilosophical implications of inorganic and organismic evolution

Bernhard Rensch, University of Münster (BRD)

## Contents

	Seite
A. Introduction .....	7
B. Basic law-like principles controlling evolution .....	9
1. The isotropic course of time .....	9
2. Causality .....	12
3. Other universal physical principles and the concept of matter .....	19
4. Principles of logic and probability .....	21
a. Logical principles .....	21
b. Principles of probability .....	23
5. The combined effect of universal principles in the inorganic realm .....	24
6. Different meanings of the concept of chance .....	25
C. General evolution and its law-like principles .....	27
1. Evolution of the universe .....	27
2. The origin of the solar system and the earth .....	30
D. The evolution of living beings .....	34
1. The origin of life .....	34
2. Evolution of unicellular organisms, plants and animals .....	42
3. The effect of basic law-like principles in the course of organismic evolution .....	50
a. Causality and the question of pure ontic chance in evolution .....	50
b. The effect of logical principles in organismic evolution .....	63
4. The human line of descent .....	66
E. The evolution of mind .....	80
1. Consciousness .....	80
2. The probable phylogenetic and ontogenetic development of psychic phenomena .....	83
3. Law-like principles of psychic phenomena .....	90
a. Introduction .....	90
b. The engram .....	91
c. Specific psychic law-like principles .....	96
4. Psychophysical relations .....	104

5. Epistemological problems of body and soul, matter and mind .....	111
a. Introduction .....	111
b. Psychophysical parallelism .....	112
c. Psychophysical interactionism .....	113
d. Psychophysical identism .....	116
e. Materialism .....	129
f. Pure idealism or spiritualism .....	131
g. Which psychophysical hypothesis seems to be the most realistic one? .....	133
F. The cultural evolution of <i>Homo sapiens</i> . The uniqueness of human mental processes .....	134
G. Consequences of the possible assumption that ultimately no freedom of thinking exists .....	150
1. Consequences for the conduction of human life .....	150
2. Consequences for the understanding of human cultural and political history .....	158
H. The purport of human life and of all being .....	165
I. Retrospect .....	170
References .....	174
Index .....	192