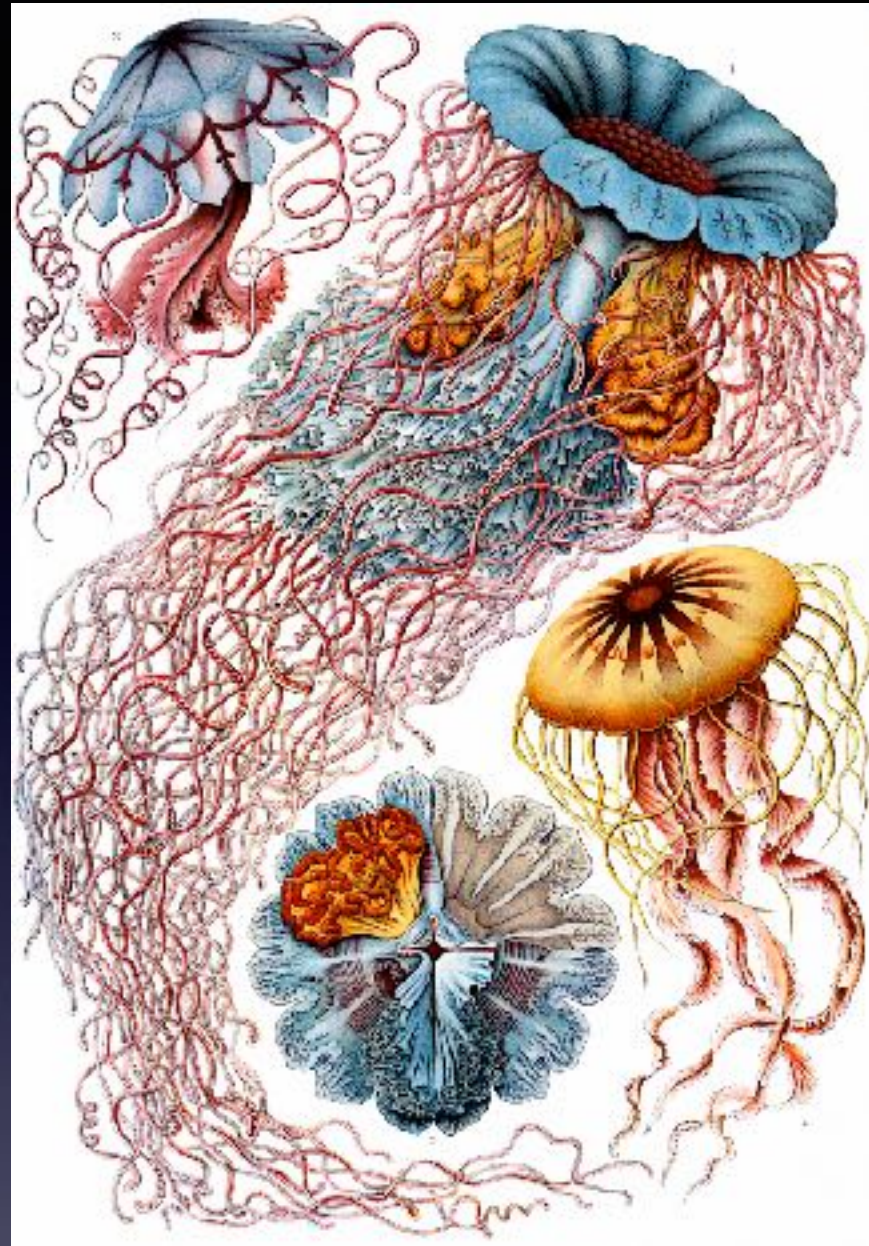


Ecology and spirituality

Dr Andy Letcher



Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919)

‘Ecology’ in 1869

Oikos = 'home', 'household', 'place where one lives'

- ecology
- economics
- ecumenicism



OIKOS

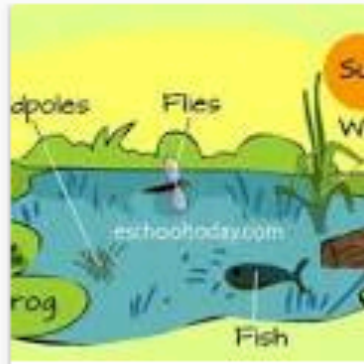
Three definitions of ecology

- the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings

Ecology > People also search for



Biology



Ecosystem



Sustainability



Biodiversity



Biophysical
environment

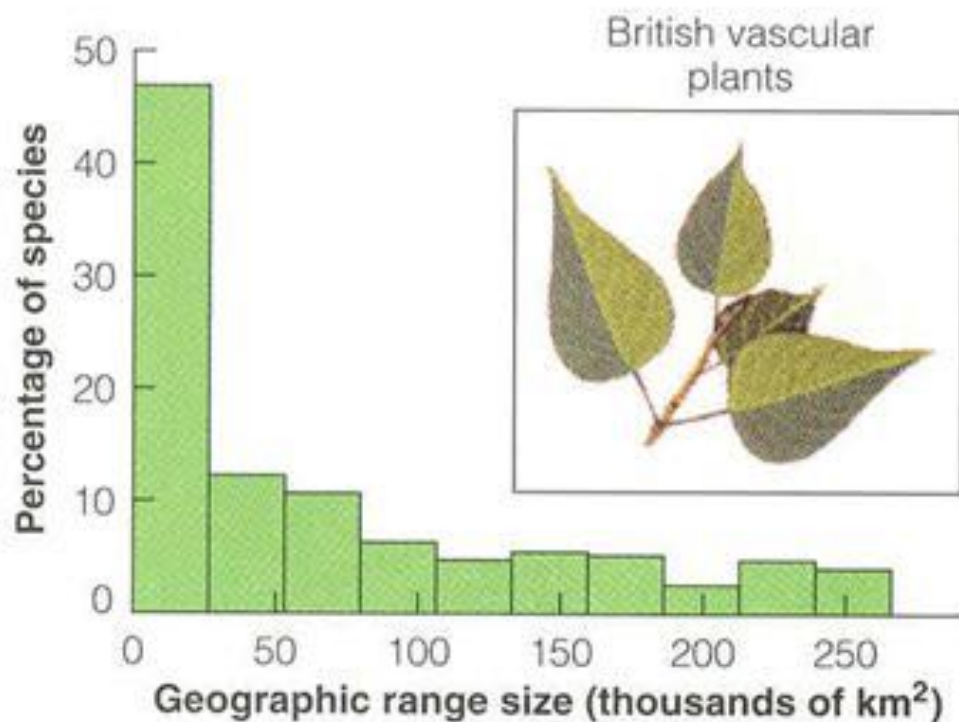
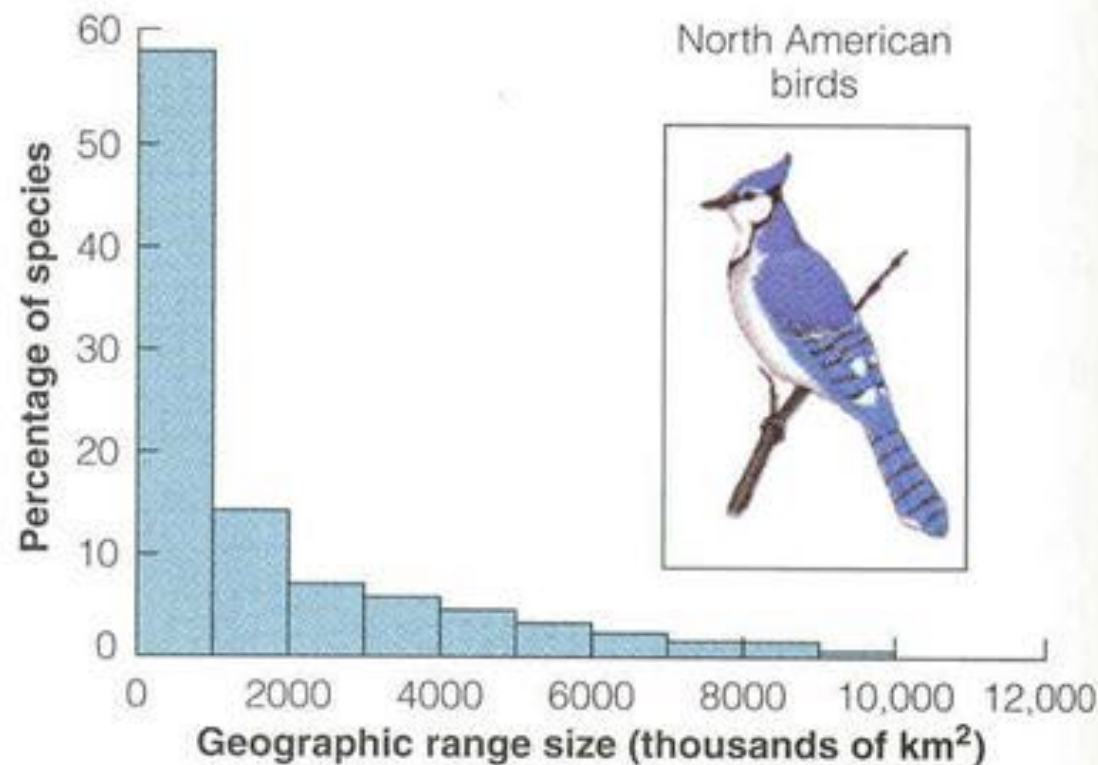


Science



Research

Variations in Geographic Range size



- **Within a taxonomic group, most species have a small geographic range:**

Three definitions of ecology

- the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings
- social movements concerned with protection/conservation of the environment



Ecology as social/political movement

THIS IS NOT A DRILL

AN

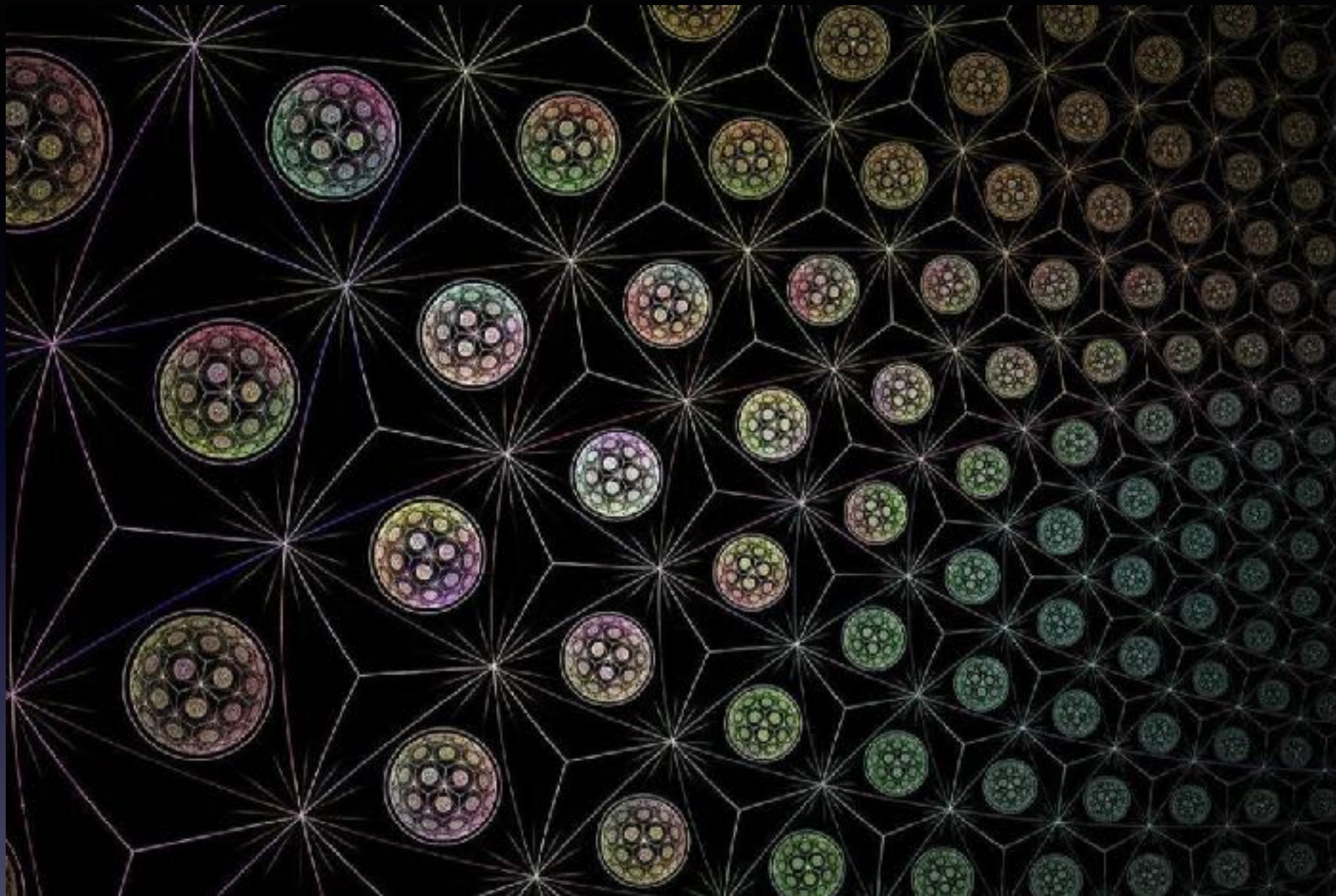
**extinction
rebellion**

HANDBOOK



Three definitions of ecology

- the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings
- social movements concerned with protection/conservation of the environment
- the sense that we live in a world that is morally and spiritually interconnected, that is a source of meaning and a motivation to action

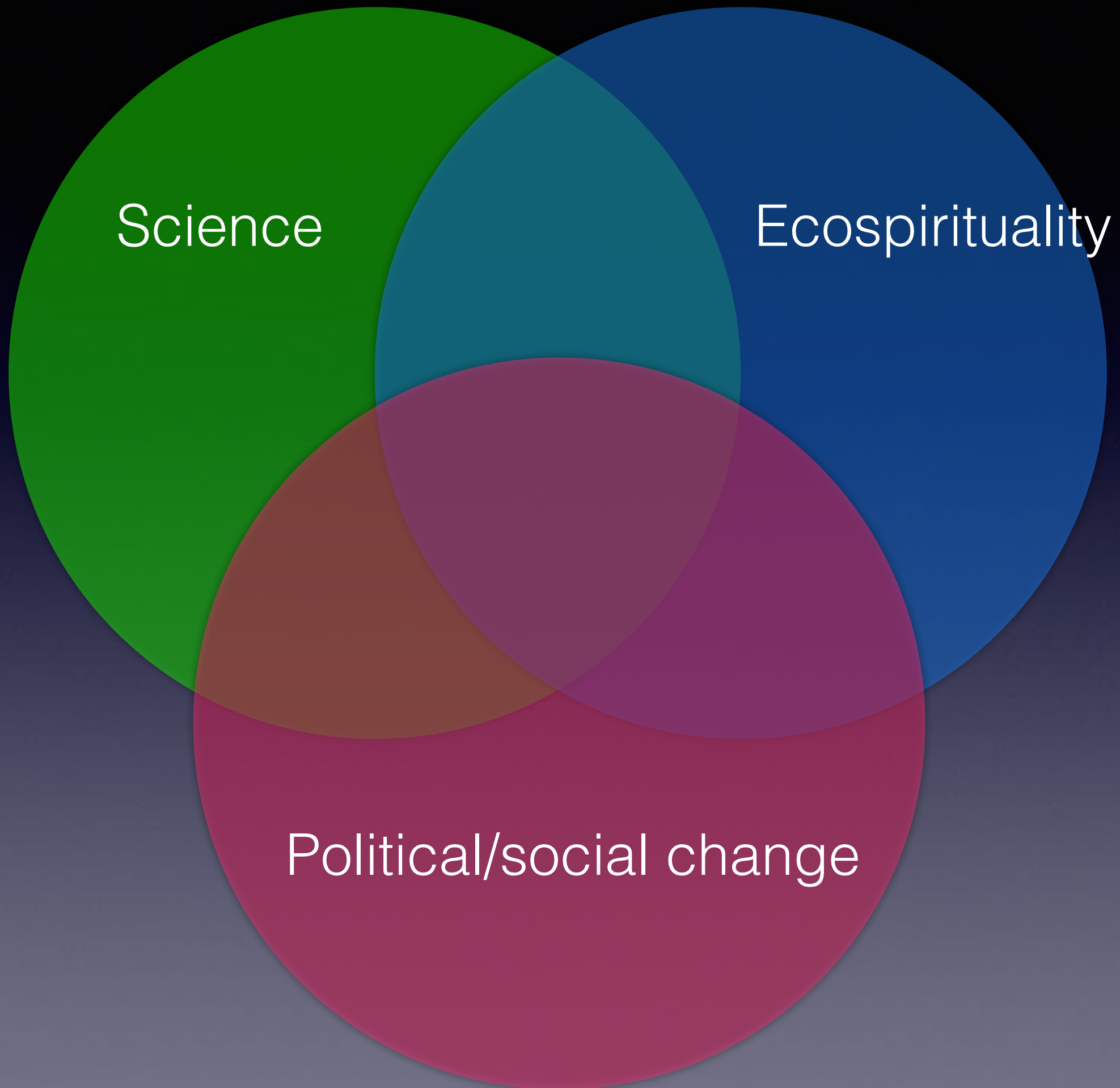


Indra's net

Joanna Macy – Mahayana Buddhism



Ecology *as* spirituality
(quality not quantity)



Science

Ecospirituality

Political/social change



Ecology as social/political movement



Roger Payne 1970

Science 📖 whale as icon



Arne Naess
Deep Ecology

Fritjof Capra and Pier Luigi Luisi

The Systems View of Life

A Unifying Vision



Religions of the Book

- Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity
- Traditionally not concerned with nature/ecology



The Lynn White Hypothesis

- Lynn White (1907-1987)
- Professor of medieval history
- *The Historical root of our present-day ecologic crisis*
1967 *Science*
- medieval Christianity laid the roots of our current crisis



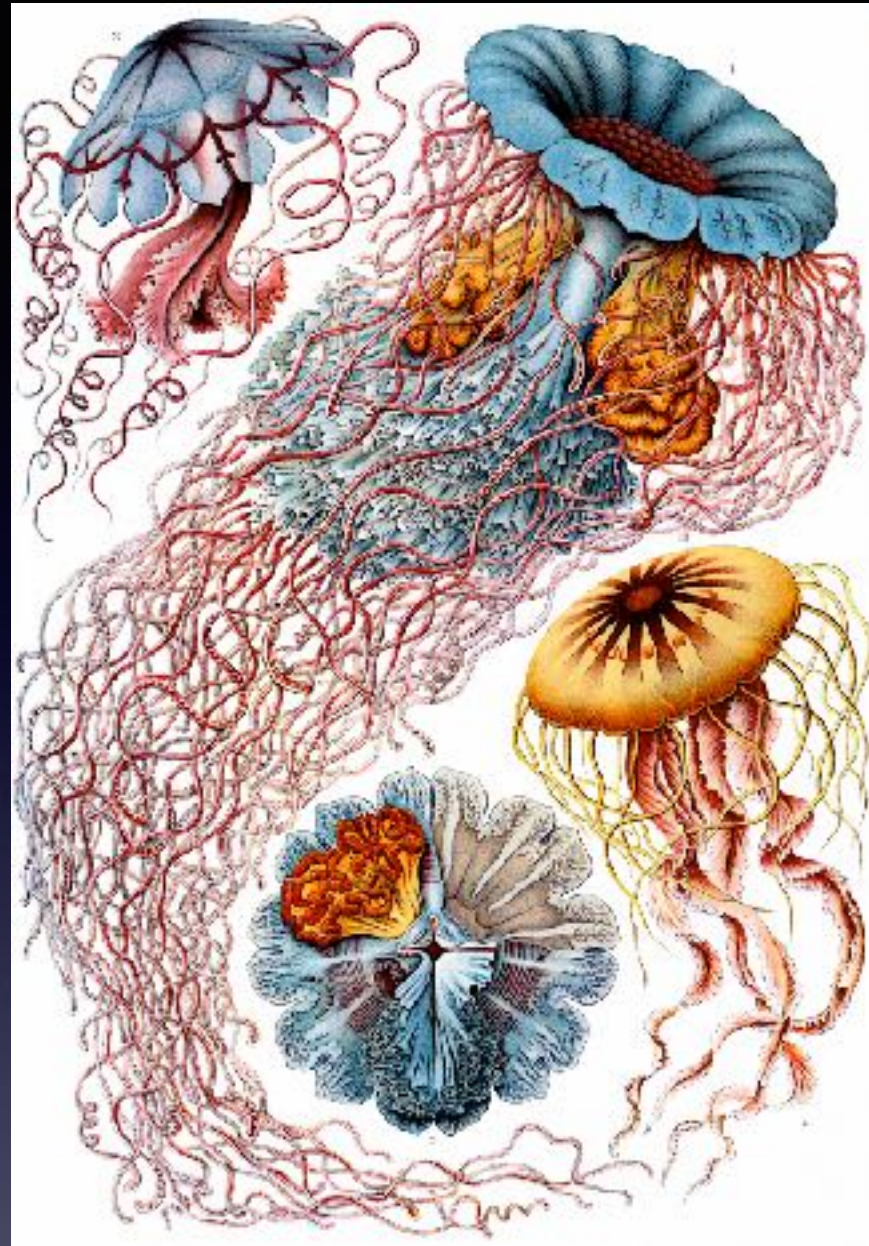
“the world’s major religions all fall short, in their traditional and, for the most part, present forms, of anything resembling an ecological ethic.”

–Patrick Curry *Ecological Ethics*



March 2013

Science ➡ Theological reevaluation ➡ Ecocentric ethics



Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919)

‘Ecology’ in 1869

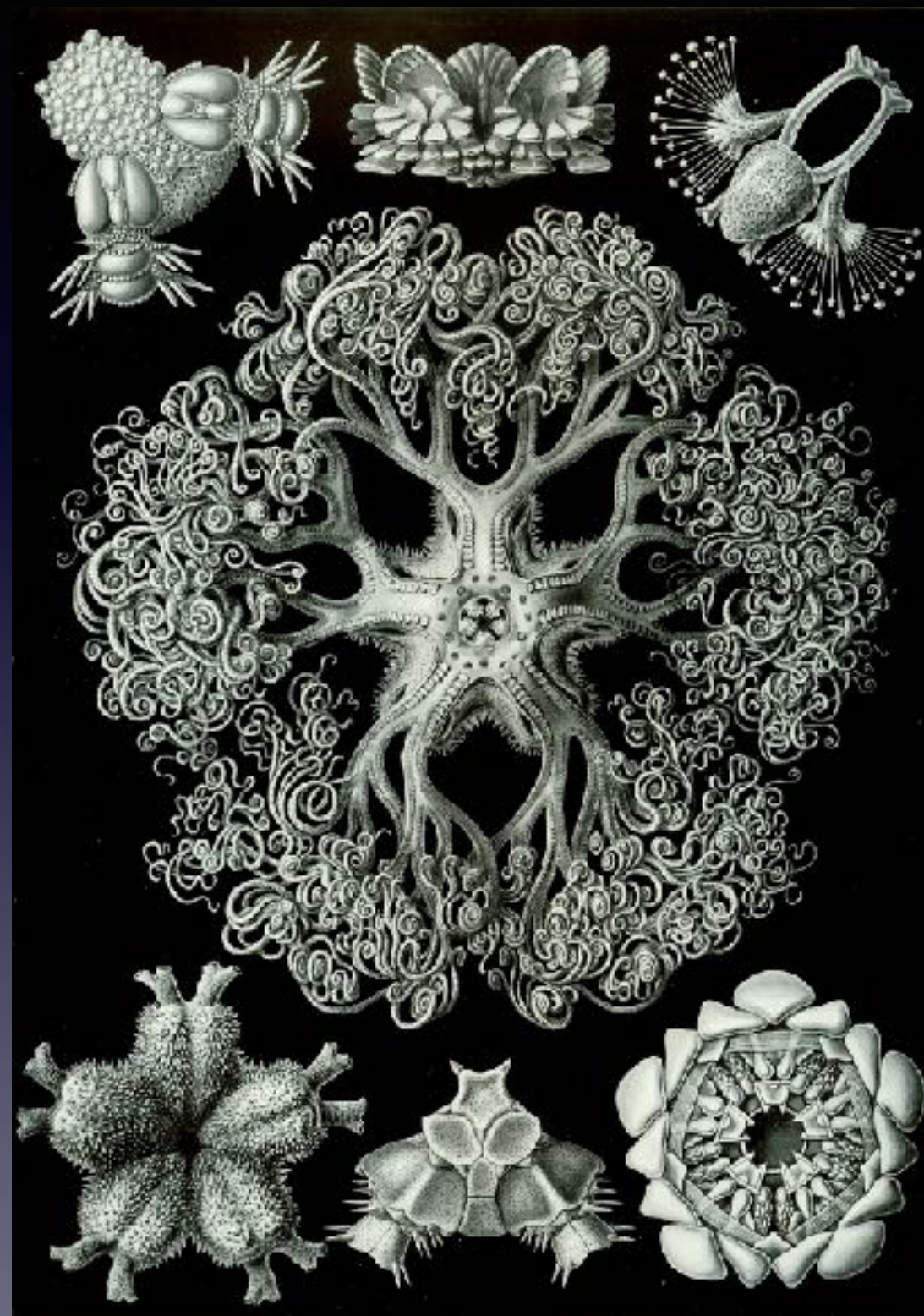
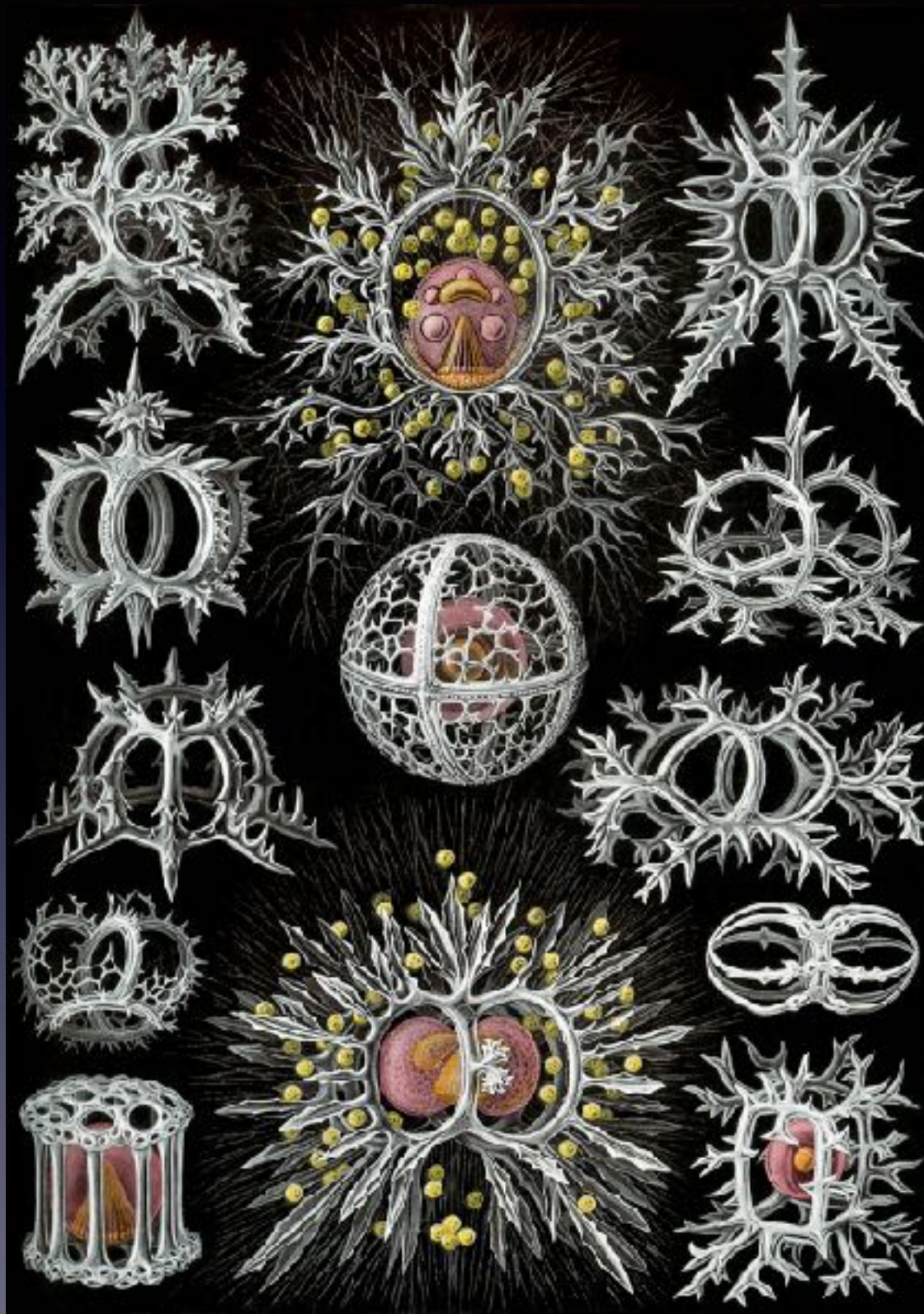


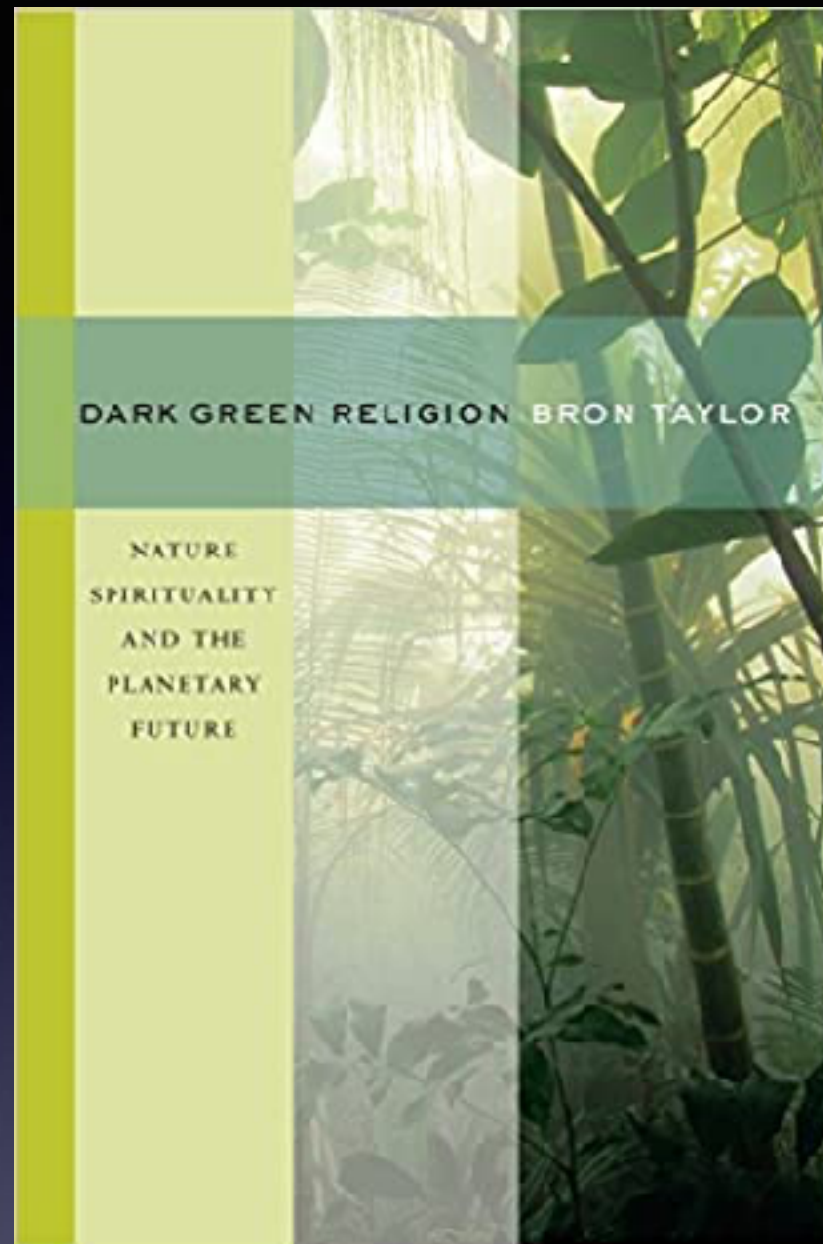
for Haeckel

study of ecology leads to cosmic truth (monism)

“No dualism, no divine creation, no afterlife, just the eternal existence of force and matter in incessant change. Individuals were the ephemeral means for the maintenance of force and matter, and into the eternal substance of the universe from which they had come they would return: from here to eternity.”

–Dr Mario A. Di Gregorio





Dark Green religion

Ecocentric spiritualities where the other-than-human is the central repository of meaning/value





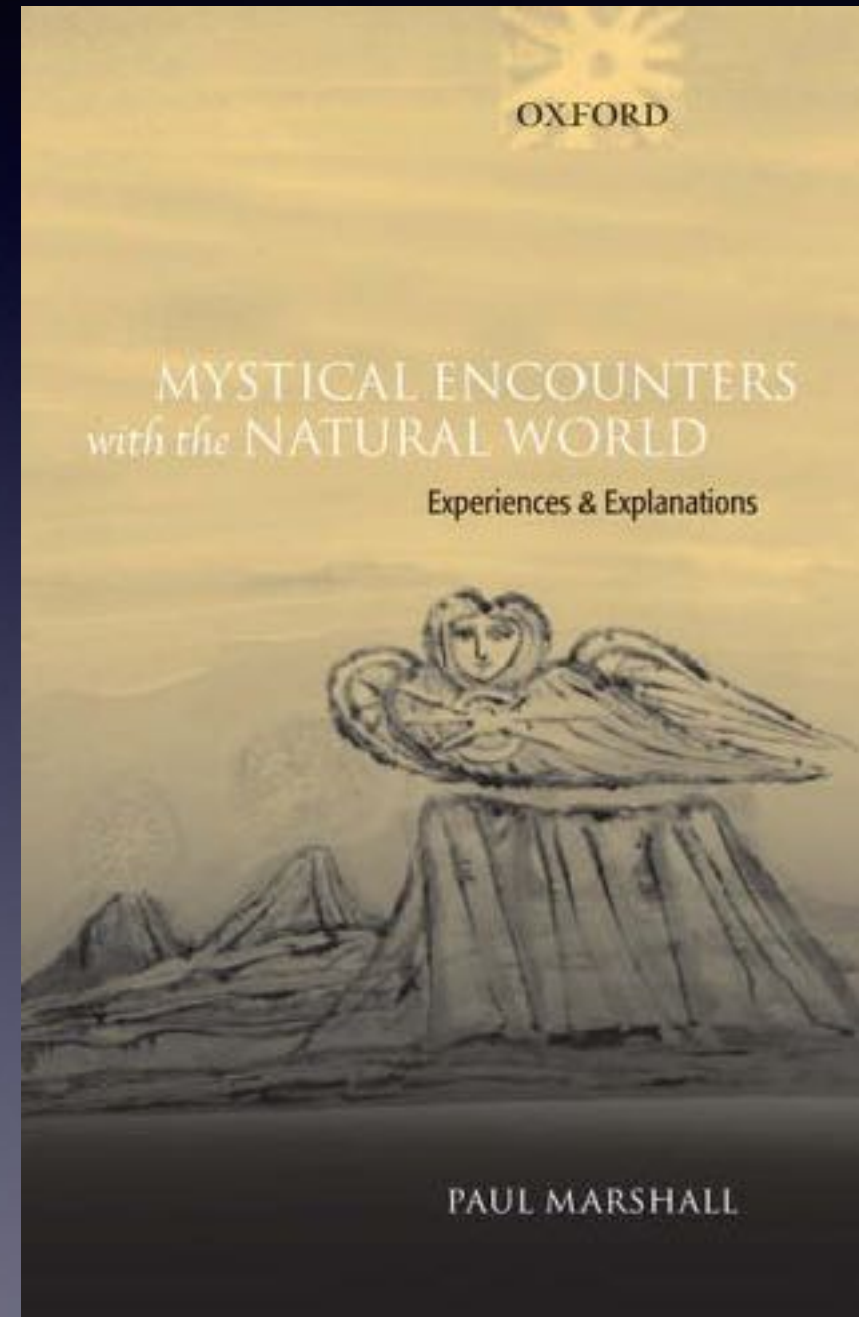
Modern Druidry



Radical eco-paganisms

Nature mystical experiences

- RC Zaehner
- Stace: extrovertive mystical experience
- psychedelic spirituality





Animism

- the world is full of people only some of whom are human
- relationship



The Lynn White Hypothesis

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- medieval Christianity laid the roots of our current crisis



Ecocentric position

- In no sense are we disconnected from nature



Ecocentric position

- In no sense are we disconnected from nature
- Anthropocentrism cannot be sustained



Ecocentric position

- In no sense are we disconnected from nature
- Anthropocentrism cannot be sustained
- Desacralisation of world leads to its exploitation

