With millions of species currently existing on earth, securing understanding of how all this magnificent variety arose is no small task. Biologists have long accepted Darwinian selection as the central explanation of gradual adaptation and long-term evolutionary change; yet, to date, no similar agreement has emerged about how genetic, geographical, ecological, evolutionary, and environmental factors interact to create two species out of one.

The goal of Speciation 2010 was to bridge between different approaches to speciation research and to promote integrative perspectives that interface empirical insights with theoretical advances and bring together developments in ecology, systematics, and genetics. Topics included, but were not limited to, the diversity of diversification processes, signatures of speciation, species cohesion, speciation models for specific systems, the role of interspecific interactions, speciation and bioinvasions, hybridization and adaptive radiations, genetics and genomics of speciation, biodiversity losses through reverse speciation, speciation in ecosystems, evolutionary biogeography, and macro-ecological explanations of biodiversity.

The conference was held from December 13 to 15, 2010, in the former summer palace of the Habsburg family in Laxenburg, near Vienna, Austria, home of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). It featured 17 invited talks, 16 contributed talks, and 75 poster presentations. Video recordings of all talks, and abstracts of all contributions, are available through the links above.

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