

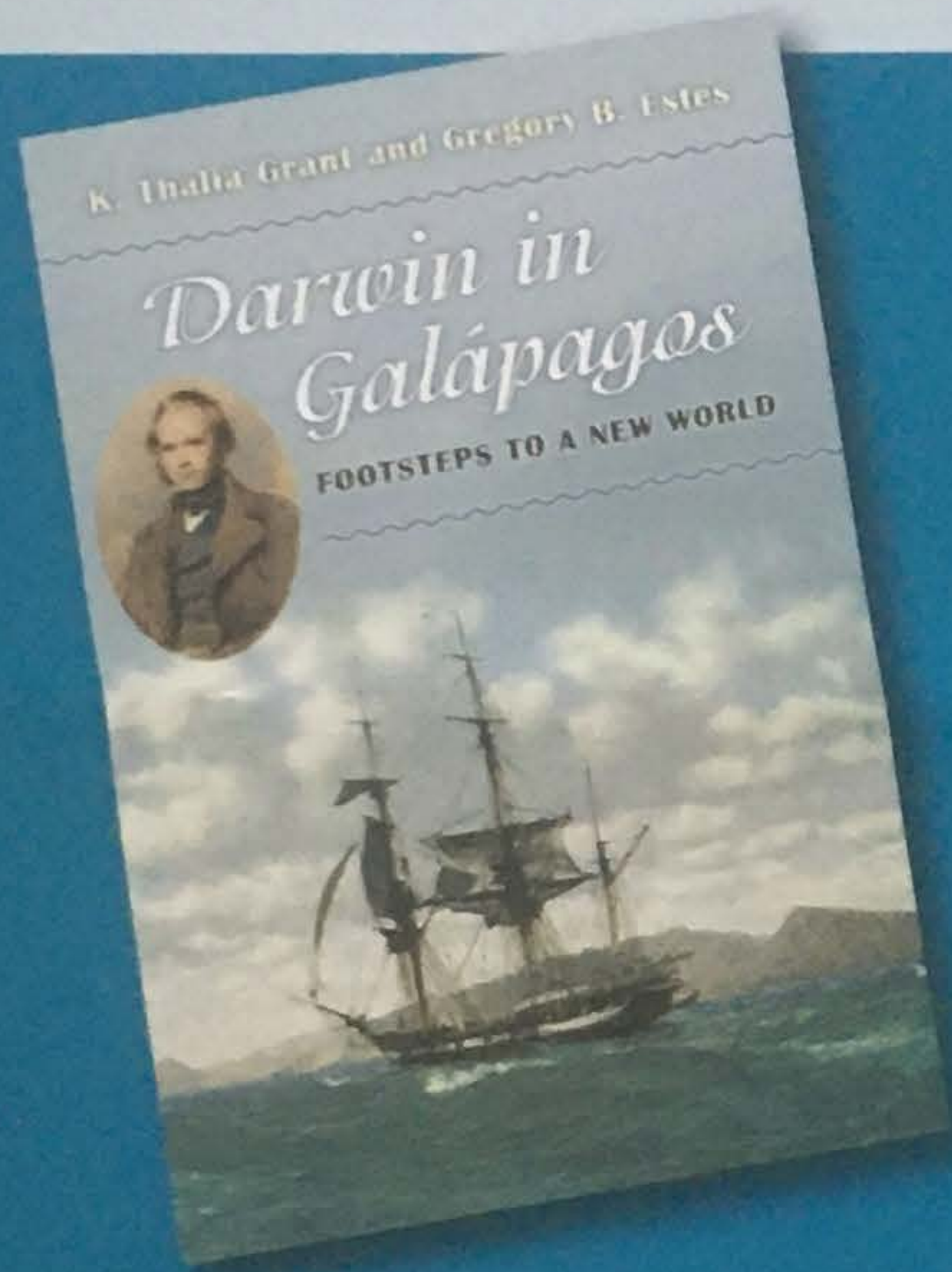
Galapagos *news*

no. 30

spring/summer 2010



BIODIVERSITY ISSUE



EVOLUTIONARY STEPS

Darwin in Galapagos:

Footsteps to a New World

*by K Thalia Grant and Gregory B Estes,
Princeton University Press (2009),*

£20.95/\$29.95, ISBN 9780691142104

Darwin and Galapagos have had more than their fair share of publications but once in a while a special contribution appears, and such is this new book by K Thalia Grant and Gregory B Estes. A good book should be based on first-hand knowledge of the subject and the authors offer an impressive combination of experience – from an intimate knowledge of Galapagos today (the authors have been retracing Darwin's footsteps in the

islands for years), the science and even the historical documents composed by Darwin.

The first chapter provides Darwin's biographical background before moving on to the voyage of the *Beagle*. The treatment becomes much more detailed when Darwin and the *Beagle* reach Galapagos in late 1835 – a vast amount of information is marshaled to give readers a full picture. The book is well illustrated with a rich mixture of historical and modern images. Any reader seriously interested in Darwin and Galapagos will want to read this book. Unfortunately, though the authors cite much of the large literature on Darwin they do not cite their extensive use of Darwin Online.

**Reviewed by John van Wyhe, director of
Darwin Online (darwin-online.org.uk)**