Exceptional

F1000 Factor **9.0**

Log-normal Distributions across the Sciences: Keys and Clues.

Limpert E, Stahel WA, Abbt M

Bioscience 2001 **51**:341-352 [order article]

Selected by | Niklaus Ammann

Evaluated 12 Jan 2006

Relevant Sections

Faculty Comments

Faculty Member	Comments
Niklaus Ammann University of Berne, Switzerland PLANT BIOLOGY Hypothesis	**Starting from the established GALTON-board and the novel LIMPERT-board (i.e. physical models that resemble gambling machines), the authors are able to demonstrate the genesis of normal and log-normal distributions, respectively. From their studies of original data, the authors hypothesize that the established normal distribution may only be a special case within the broad spectrum covered by the log-normal distribution and that, indeed, "Life is log-normal" (see also the virtual versions of the boards).** This paper will no doubt be cited frequently because, in addition, the authors characterize log-normal data on the original scale in an easy, insightful way, and their literature survey and summary of applications has considerable breadth and depth. The authors present an intriguing concept, originally designed by a biologist {1}. This may bring about a change in paradigm regarding our current view of data in the life sciences showing quantitative variation. {1} Limpert E (1999): "Fungicide sensitivity: towards improved understanding of genetic variability." In Modern Fungicides and Antifungal Compounds II. Eds Lyr H, Russell PE and Sisler H. Andover (UK) Intercept; pp. 187-193. Evaluated 31 Aug 2004

Followup: Since writing this evaluation, this paper has in the meanwhile received 47 citations in peer-reviewed literature (see Web of Science); thus, we need to consider this to be an outstanding paper.

Evaluated 26 Dec 2005

How to cite this evaluation

Faculty Comments

How to cite the Faculty of 1000 Biology evaluation(s) for this paper

1) To cite all the evaluations for this article:

Faculty of 1000 Biology: evaluations for Limpert E et al *Bioscience* 2001 51 :341-352 http://www.f1000biology.com/article/id/1020726/evaluation

2) To cite an evaluation by a specific Faculty member:

Niklaus Ammann: Faculty of 1000 Biology, 12 Jan 2006 http://www.f1000biology.com/article/id/1020726/evaluation