



acknowledgments

I am indebted to so many people for the insights that form the basis of this book that I am tempted to say that not I, but this collection of friends and colleagues, wrote it. The people who have influenced me in developing these ideas include old and new relationships, though inevitably it is the older ones that have made the more lasting impact. Among these I must mention my longest working collaboration, with Gerry Webster, which started over twenty years ago when we were both at the University of Sussex, where we discussed at length what seemed to us the deeper levels of biological meaning, involving many students in the process. Another very important influence from that time was John Maynard Smith, whose clarity of thinking about biological matters always forced Gerry and me to go further into conceptual detail than we might otherwise have done. However, John would certainly not thank me for implicating him in the direction and the conclusions of this book. The same is true of Lewis Wolpert, an old colleague whose work has been a stimulus to clarification of the alternative views on morphogenesis and evolution that are presented here. On the other hand, an equally long working friendship with Stuart Kauffman has involved a continuous convergence of ideas that, despite quite different analytical modes and emphases, has led us to virtually identical conclusions, from which I take great satisfaction and a deepened belief that we are onto a promising track.

In more recent years the influences have come from colleagues at the Open University, particularly from an ongoing dialogue with Mae-Wan Ho, whose thinking and imagination know no boundaries and continually challenge accepted limitations. I am also indebted to Steven

Acknowledgments

Rose for a dialectic about biology and society that maintained a broad perspective. We diverge more in emphasis than in objectives. For very useful comments on various chapters I am indebted to Hazel Goodwin, Jane Henry, Alastair Matheson, Jennifer Wimborne, and Françoise Wemelsfelder.

As for the many other people whose work and ideas have influenced me, I have to acknowledge them collectively here and specifically by reference in the text itself. Science is a collective enterprise, an outcome of the type of relational order that underlies all creative activity, so my own contribution is minimal. However, someone has to take responsibility for the limitations of the work, and that can only be me. My grateful thanks go to all those with whom it has been my privilege to interact over the years.

How the Leopard Changed Its Spots

