



FIGURE 17.12. A fitness landscape, which shows how fitness depends on individual phenotype (horizontal axes). Unlike Fig. 17.6, this landscape has multiple peaks. Thus, a series of stepwise improvements (*arrows*) may lead to a local optimum (*center*) rather than to the highest peak (*far right*). Here, the phenotype is represented by just two dimensions. In reality, there might be very many dimensions, and fitness might be plotted against a discrete genotype rather than a continuous phenotype.