



**FIGURE 3.21.** An example of punctuated equilibrium. Shown schematically is the evolution of the Devonian trilobite *Phacops rana* (one of the organisms used to develop this theory). Time is on the vertical axis (*solid lines*) and morphology is on the horizontal axis (*dotted lines*). Time ranges of three species are illustrated (the three *vertical lines*). Punctuated equilibrium is evidenced by the abrupt changes in morphology that occur during the relatively short periods of time indicated by the *dotted lines*.

3.21, adapted from Eldredge N., *Darwin: Discovering the Tree of Life*, © 2005 W.W. Norton, New York, London