



**FIGURE 20.12.** The rate of senescence increases with the baseline rate of accidental mortality in birds and mammals. The baseline mortality is the left-hand intercept of curves such as that in Fig. 20.8B, and the rate of senescence is a measure of how fast mortality increases with age.

20.12, redrawn from Ricklefs R.E., *Am. Nat.* **152**: 24–44, © 1998 University of Chicago Press