

DIVERSITY IN LIVING ORGANISMS

Biodiversity means different forms of living organisms or variety of life forms found in a particular region.

Classification

Classification of organisms is a system of arrangement of organisms into different groups and sub-groups on the basis of their similarities, differences and relationships.

The major characteristics used in classifying the organisms into 5 kingdoms are

- (a) Whether cells are prokaryotic or eukaryotic.
- (b) Whether cells occur singly or in clusters.
- (c) Whether the organism is photosynthetic or takes food from outside (heterotrophic).
- (d) Organization of different body parts.

Binomial Nomenclature

Giving a correct scientific name to an organism or a taxon is called nomenclature, which are listed below in hierarchy

Kingdom
 Phylum (for animals)/Division (for plants)
 Class
 Order
 Family
 Genus
 Species

Five Kingdom Classification

- Robert H. Whittaker (1959) divided living organisms into 5 kingdoms:
 - (i) Kingdom : Monera
 - (ii) Kingdom : Protista
 - (iii) Kingdom : Fungi
 - (iv) Kingdom : Plantae
 - (v) Kingdom : Animalia





