



"Where Science, Art, Language, Technology,
Math and Civics collide"

Classification

There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (VSU091)

K Kingdom

P Phylum

C Class

O Order

F Family

G Genus

S Species

Taxonomy (Greek word "taxis"= arrangement and "nomia"= method) is the classification of living organisms by grouping them based on their physical and genetic similarities. Biological classification helps us understand the relationship between organisms, their evolutionary links and importantly, helps us identify things without confusion!

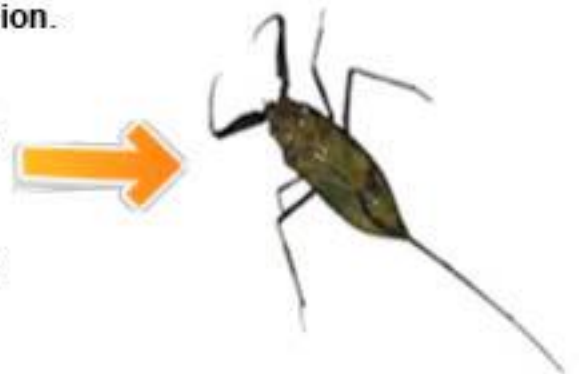


The classification of organisms has several hierarchical categories, much like a library does. For example, the library is categorised into certain sections such as adults and children books, which are then categorised into fiction or non-fiction, which can be divided into more sections, such as science-fiction or romance, finally narrowing it down to just one book.

Biological classification works the same way, it is like a filing system for living things, however, there are seven major levels (or filing systems) of classification: **Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species**. Within each step down in classification, organisms are split into more specific groups.

For example, let's classify this **Water scorpion**.

Kingdom - Animalia (Animals)
Phylum - Arthropoda (Invertebrates)
Class - Insecta (Insects)
Order - Hemiptera (True Bugs)
Family - Nepoidea (Waterscorpions)
Genus - *Laccotrephes*
Species - *Laccotrephes tristis*



Trying to remember the biological classification can be tricky, however there are some great mnemonic techniques that can help. For example to remember the acronym **KPCOFGS**, try remembering:

King **P**hillip **C**ould **O**nly **F**ind **G**ood **S**paghetti or
Kids **P**refer **C**andy **O**ver **F**ine **G**ood **S**alad

ACTIVITY - Can you come up with 3 more ways of remembering the classification acronym? Pick an insect/bug/beetle and try and classify it to Family, Genus or Species!



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