

# KINGDOMS OF LIVING THINGS IN THE LINNAEAN CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

KINGDOM	STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION	METHOD OF NUTRITION	TYPES OF ORGANISMS	NAMED SPECIES	TOTAL SPECIES (estimate)
<b>Monera</b>	small, simple single prokaryotic cell (nucleus is not enclosed by a membrane); some form chains or mats	absorb food and/or photosynthesize	bacteria, blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), and spirochetes	4,000	1,000,000
<b>Protista</b>	large, single eukaryotic cell (nucleus is enclosed by a membrane); some form chains or colonies	absorb, ingest, and/or photosynthesize food	protozoans and algae of various types	80,000	600,000
<b>Fungi</b>	multicellular filamentous form with specialized eukaryotic cells	absorb food	funguses, molds, mushrooms, yeasts, mildews, and smuts	72,000	1,500,000
<b>Plantae</b>	multicellular form with specialized eukaryotic cells; do not have their own means of locomotion	photosynthesize food	mosses, ferns, woody and non-woody flowering plants	270,000	320,000
<b>Animalia</b>	multicellular form with specialized eukaryotic cells; have their own means of locomotion	ingest food	sponges, worms, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals	1,326,239	9,812,298

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NOTE: A growing number of researchers now either divide the Monera into two distinct kingdoms: Eubacteria (the true bacteria) and Archaeobacteria (bacteria-like organisms that live in extremely harsh anaerobic environments such as hot springs, deep ocean volcanic vents, sewage treatment plants, and swamp sediments) or define 3 domains of living things: Archaeo (archaeobacteria), Bacteria (all other bacteria, blue-green algae, and spirochetes), and Eukarya (organisms with distinct nuclei in their cells--protozoans, fungi, plants, and animals). Domains are a level of classification above kingdoms. Viruses, prions, and other non-cellular organic entities are not included in the domains and kingdoms of living things.

The numbers of named and estimated total species were derived from Gibbs, W. Wayt (2001) "On the Termination of Species", *Scientific American* Vol. 285, No. 5.

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