

## Advanced Search



The advanced search allows you to build complex queries, based on numerous parameters and their values, in just a few steps:

1. Select a taxon group to show any additional taxon group related parameters. (Optional)
2. Select a parameter, either by browsing the tree or by using the parameter quick search.
3. Select an item from a list or tree or by using the parameter-independent value quick search or enter a value, depending on the type of parameter.
4. Add the value to the criteria. The results will match all criteria specified, unless multiple items are added at once in which case at least one of the values should match. Higher level items within a tree implicitly include all subitems.
5. If all criteria are specified, push the results tab.

Certain items have topic pages that can be accessed directly by simply clicking the item within the value or criteria section.

## The Future

Future developments will further enhance the advanced search facility, e.g. allowing users to load and save their criteria. Other enhancements include: improved

navigation between taxon details pages; reports and export facilities; web services; and help pages.

The success of the concept depends heavily on the quality and quantity of the information. Therefore much effort will be spent on continuously updating the system and cleaning up the existing data. A growing list of contributors offer their work to be incorporated into *The Taxonomicon*. A new application is being developed that will take full advantage of the potential of the concept.

## Some Statistics

Not all information within *The Taxonomicon* is public yet. Every entry needs to be verified against the source first.

	Total	On-line
Taxon entries	1,237,553	517,422
Scientific names	1,006,130	300,758
"Valid" genera	116,175	70,390
"Valid" species	595,159	135,802
References	5,745	5,745
Authors	4,901	4,901
Visits/month	~30,000	-
Hits/month	~750,000	-

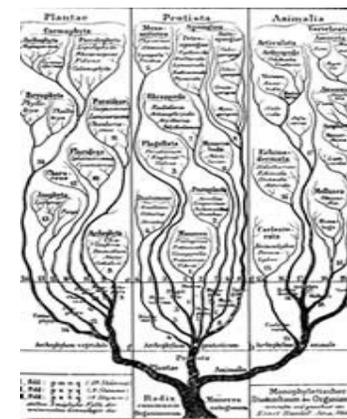
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Universal Taxonomic Services  
Tretjakovlaan 56  
1064 PR Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Phone +31 (0)20 411 3443

E-mail [info@utxs.com](mailto:info@utxs.com) - Internet [www.utxs.com](http://www.utxs.com)

*The Taxonomicon*: [taxonomicon.taxonomy.nl](http://taxonomicon.taxonomy.nl)  
*Systema Naturae 2000*: [sn2000.taxonomy.nl](http://sn2000.taxonomy.nl)

## The Taxonomicon & Systema Naturae 2000



"The tree of life is changing rapidly. As new techniques reveal more about the phylogenetic relationships between taxa, the tree changes shape almost every day. Taxonomy today is more exciting than ever before, but this constant change creates a need for stability and insight into the relationships between the classifications themselves. *The Taxonomicon* is trying to satisfy this need for insight and enters into a journey on a vast ocean, called taxonomy."

*The Taxonomicon* is a biodiversity information system that contains information from a multitude of sources. Information from each original and authoritative source remains intact and so provides a historical account. *Systema Naturae 2000* is the most recent compilation of all these sources. This approach enables accurate accounts that may serve as a starting point for biodiversity research. Links to the literature and the internet lead you to more in-depth information.

*The Taxonomicon* combines four major components:

- The Index of Life
- The Tree of Life
- The Web of Life
- The Facts of Life

## The Index of Life



The index of life attempts to enumerate the names of the world's past and present biota. The list is completed with nomenclatural issues, like authorship, synonyms, homonyms (incl. allowed ones) and common names. *The Taxonomicon* also allows accurate synonymy at the circumscription level, by combining the scientific name of the taxon with the source in which it appeared.

## The Tree of Life



The tree of life shows multiple alternative and historical classifications. You can easily switch between them with just a single click of the mouse.

*Systema Naturae 2000* will serve as the most recent and most comprehensive scheme that "rules" them all. Separate classifications based on taxa and clades respectively offer you even more views of the tree of life. Synonyms and alternative entries can easily be included in or excluded from the tree.

Each entry within a classification shows the total number of subtaxa and the completeness thereof relative to the source to eventually answer the question: "How many species are there?".

## The Web of Life



The web of life shows the many types of interrelationships between species and allows more complex constructions such as "*Species A* is an endoparasite in the gut of a male adult of *species B*, causing *disease X*", with focus on both species, crossing kingdom boundaries time after time.

## The Facts of Life

The facts of life provide information on the taxa themselves. This information consists mainly of structured metadata, i.e. no observational or specimen data. Currently *The Taxonomicon* focuses on geographical distribution, habitat, and geological distribution, but it allows for a much wider array of properties of different types, e.g. conservation status,

body size, pH and salinity ranges, population size, etc., that may be used as input by many other systems. Context properties provide additional details to allow constructions such as "The estimated population size of chimpanzees in Gabon in 1980 was 64,000".

## References everywhere

Every piece of information within *The Taxonomicon* gets a precise reference for easy verification. The quality indicator tells you if the piece of information is a formal entry within an authoritative publication and other indicators tell you how the entry used in *Systema Naturae 2000* relates to the original entry.

Cross-references between authors, references and taxa help you find more in-depth information in the vast amount of sources in the literature and on the internet.

## Quick Search

The quick search will often be the starting point of your quest and offers you easy access to the indices of:

- taxa, by scientific name at several levels
- taxa, by epithet
- taxa, by common name
- homonyms, by scientific name
- authors, by last name
- articles, by title

Indices (and details pages for that matter) may also be accessed directly by a url for linking from external websites.