



## The New Taxonomy (Systematics Association Special Volumes)

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*Finalist for 2009 The Council on Botanical & Horticultural Libraries Literature Award!*

### **A Fresh Look at Taxonomy**

The most fundamental of all biological sciences, taxonomy underpins any long term strategies for reconstructing the great tree of life or salvaging as much biodiversity as possible. Yet we are still unable to say with any certainty how many species are living on the earth. **The New Taxonomy** describes how a confluence of theory, cyberinfrastructure, and international teamwork can meet this unprecedented research challenge and marks an emerging field, cybertaxonomy.

### **Taxonomy Meets the Challenges of the Biodiversity Crisis**

An in-depth discussion of the future of descriptive taxonomy, the book examines the efforts of several international groups to catalog the world's biodiversity and make it accessible. An answer to Julian Huxley's The New Systematics, the book marks the beginning of an upward trajectory of taxonomy to meet the unprecedented challenges of the biodiversity crisis. Contemporary taxonomists reclaim the unique mission, goals, and importance of taxonomy as an independent science. They cover technologies such as DNA evidence and its applications, computer-assisted species identification, digital morphology, and E-typification. The book also provides insight into effective ways of organizing taxonomic information and discusses what benefits can be leveraged from a rapid growth of taxonomic knowledge.

### **A Vision and A Strategy for the Future**

Not much has changed since E.O. Wilson pointed out how little we know of Earth's species in 1985. This book offers a vision and a strategy for changing all that. The first current, unapologetic look at morphology and descriptive taxonomy that points out their incredible importance to science and society, this book frames one of the most constructive responses to biodiversity crises. It is a call to action for the taxonomy and museum communities to come together and to organize, plan, innovate, and initiate the most ambitious period of exploration in the long history of taxonomy.

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