Investigating the Tree of Life

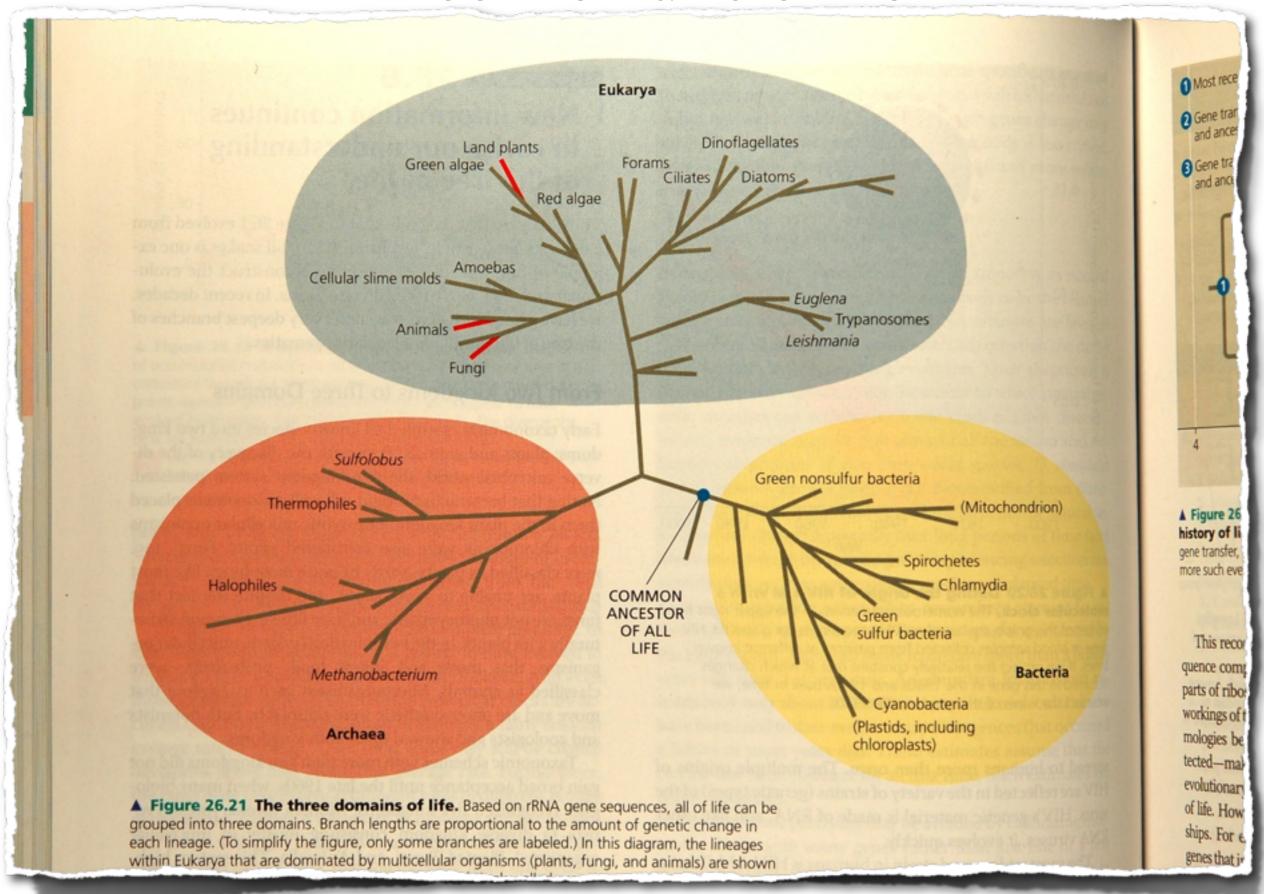
Phylogeny is the evolutionary history of a species or group of related species

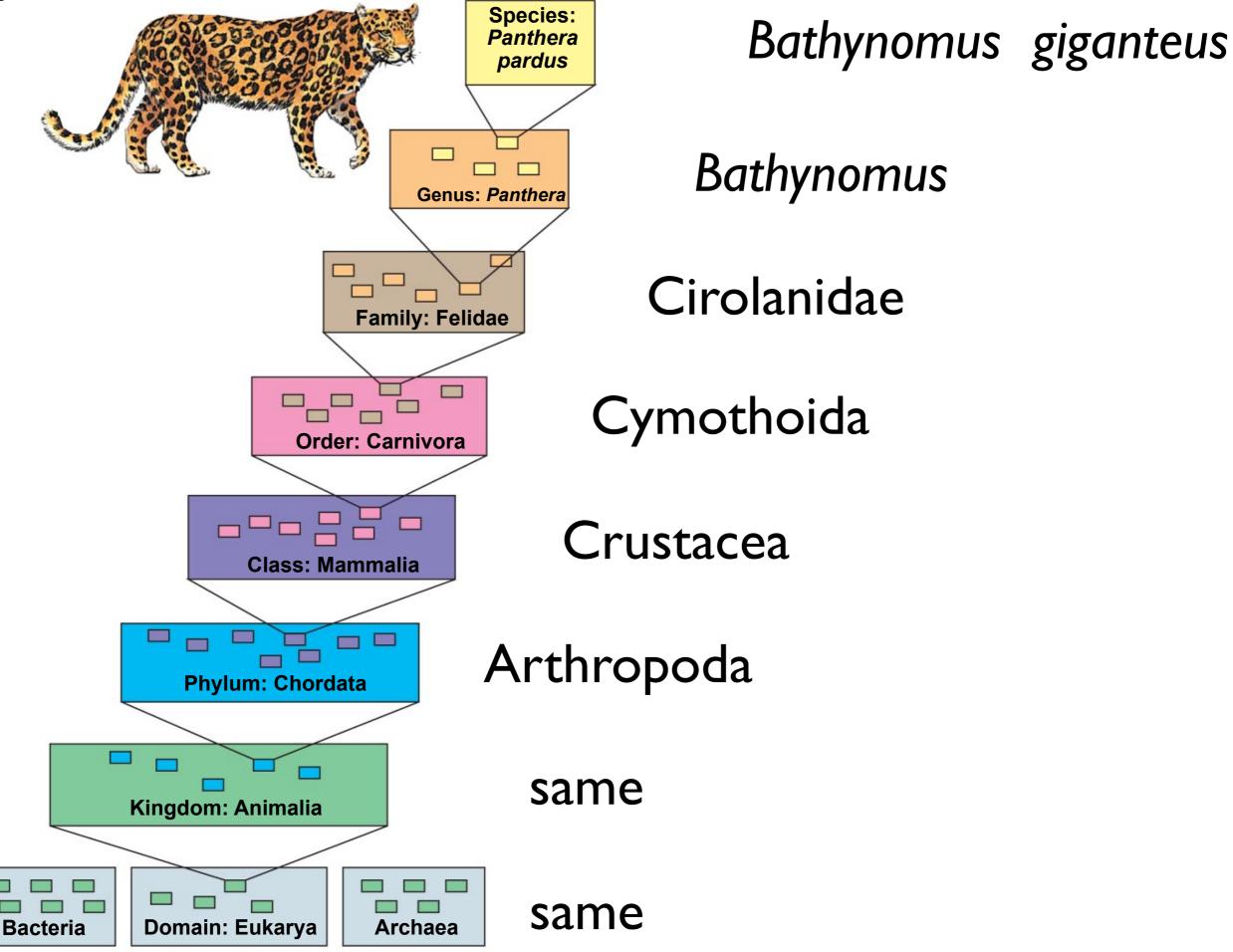
- The discipline of <u>systematics</u> classifies organisms and determines their evolutionary relationships
- Systematists use fossil, molecular, and genetic data to infer evolutionary relationships

Hierarchical Classification

- Linnaeus introduced a system for grouping species in increasingly broad categories
- The taxonomic groups from broad to narrow are domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species
- A taxonomic unit at any level of hierarchy is called a taxon

Three Domains of life



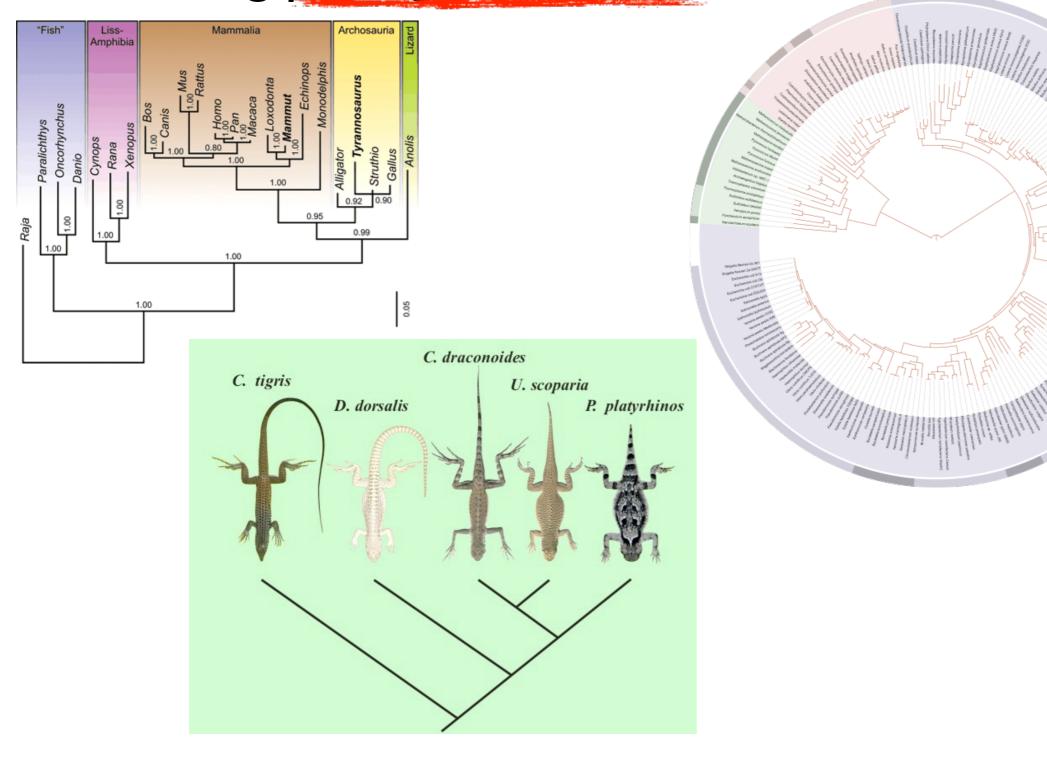


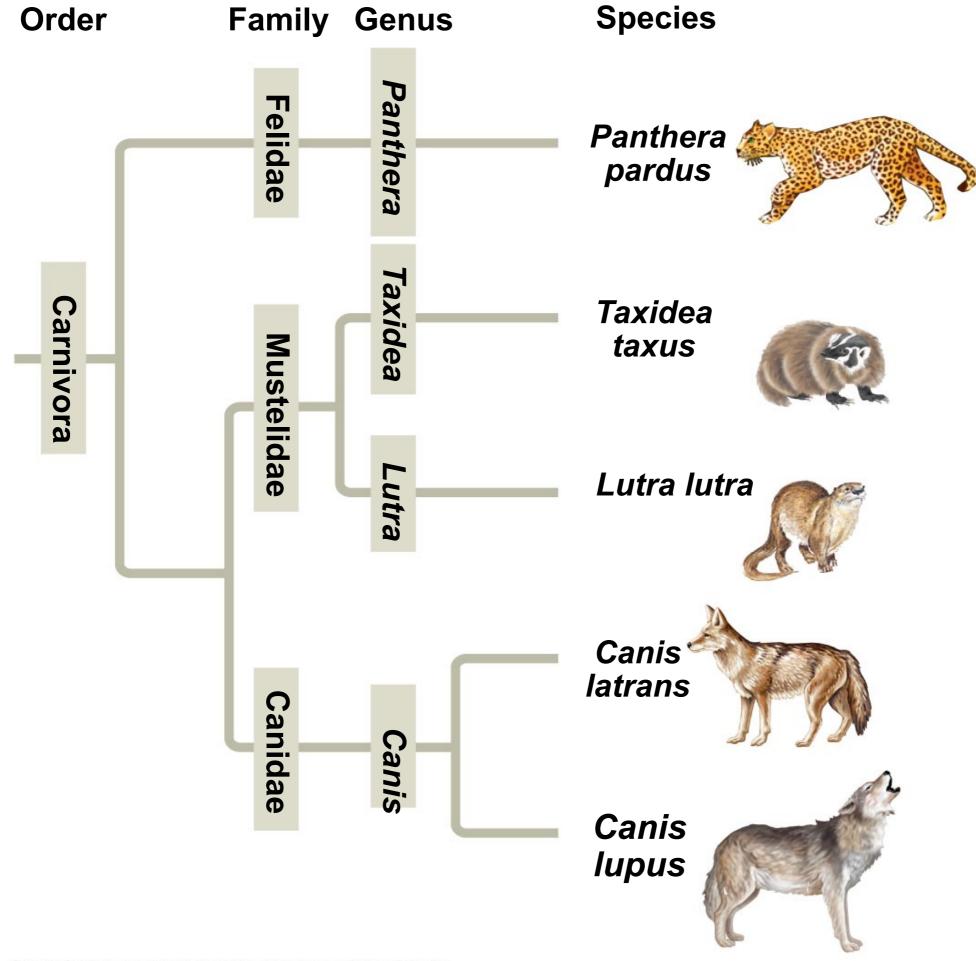
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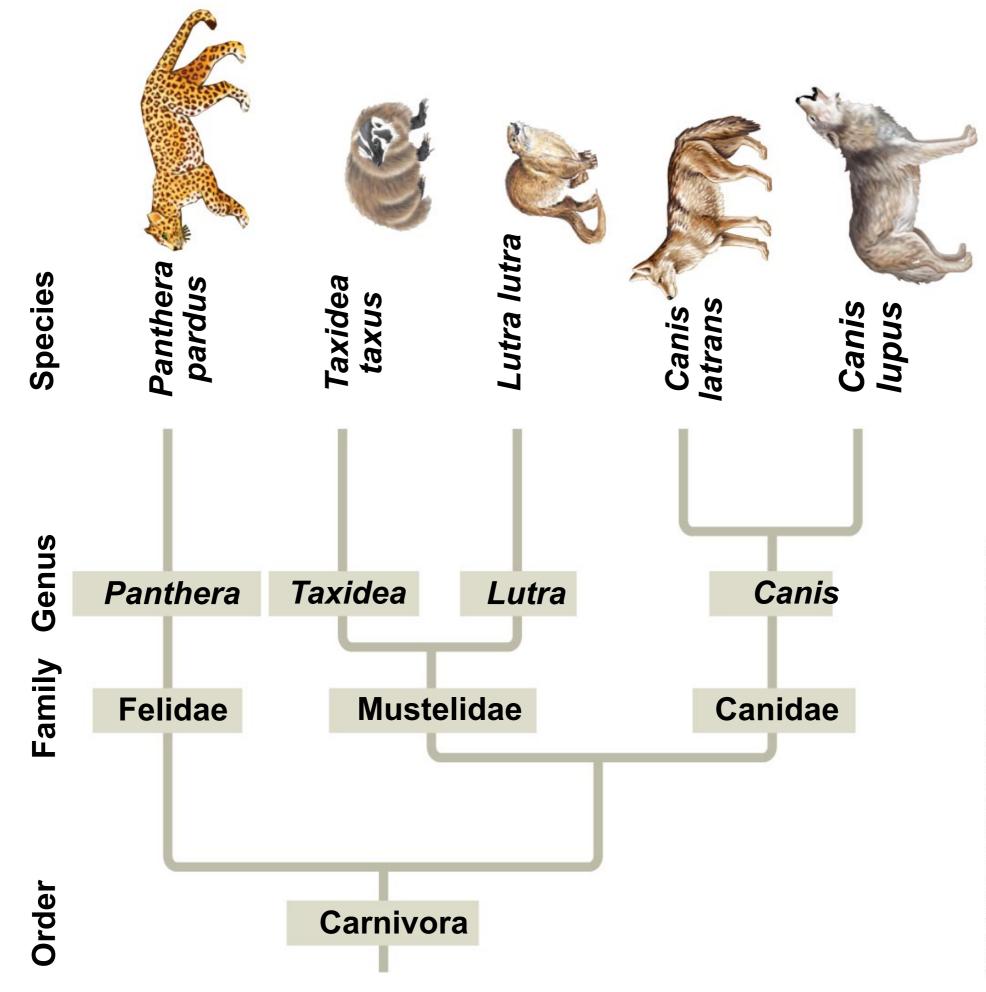
Linking Classification and Phylogeny

Systematists depict evolutionary relationships in

branching phylogenetic trees







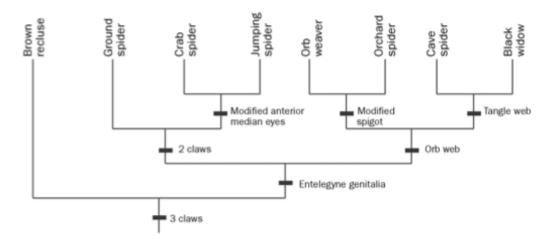
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- A phylogenetic tree represents a hypothesis about evolutionary relationships
- Each branch point represents the divergence of two species

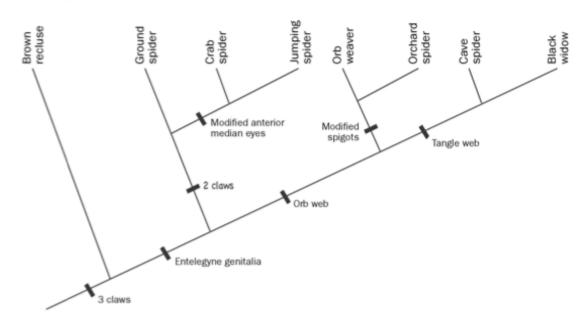
Sister taxa are groups that share an immediate common ancestor

Different Kinds of Trees

a. Cladogram in the tree format



b. Cladogram in the ladder format



c. Other cladogram

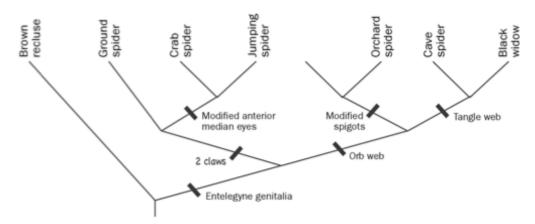
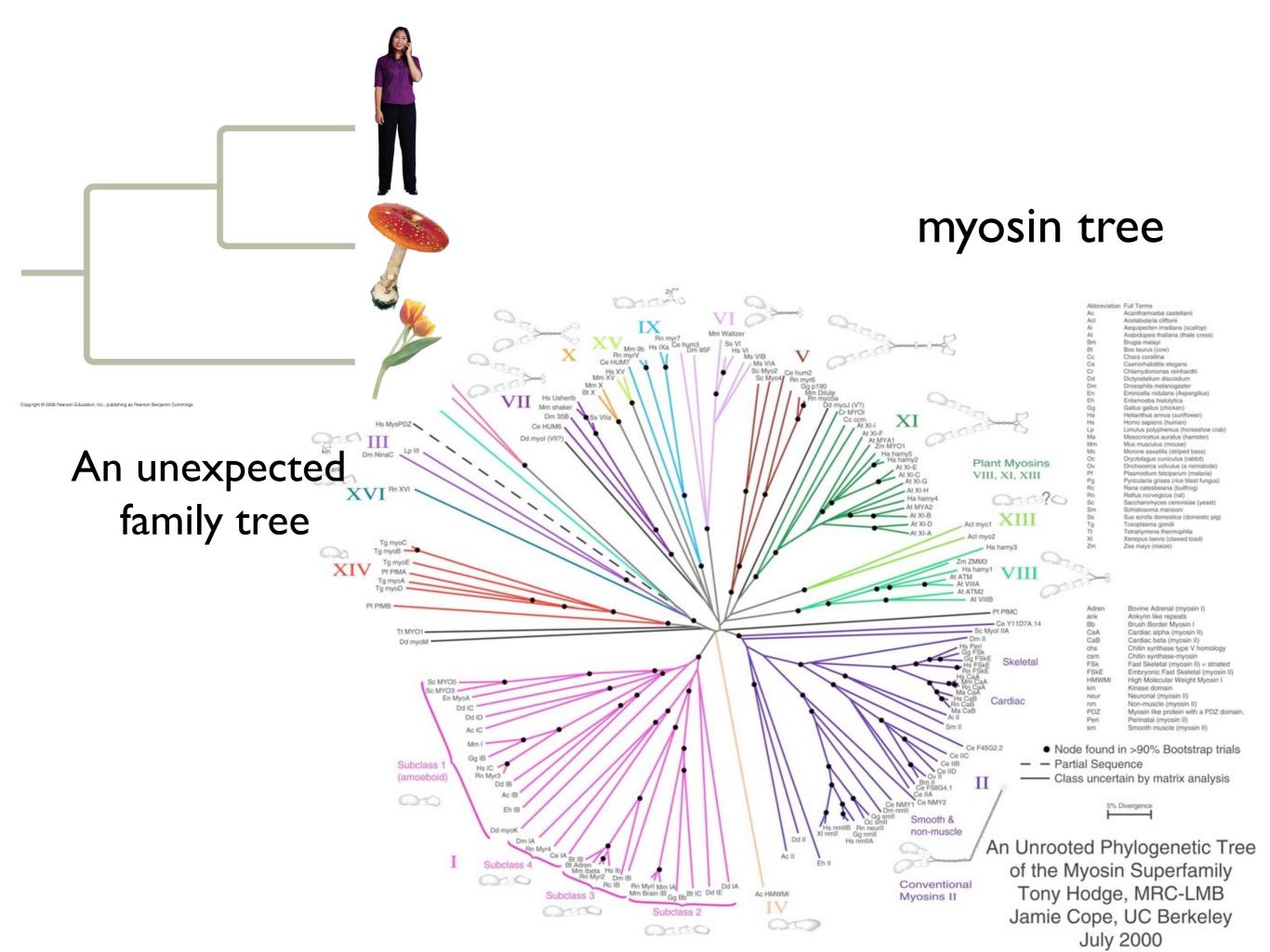
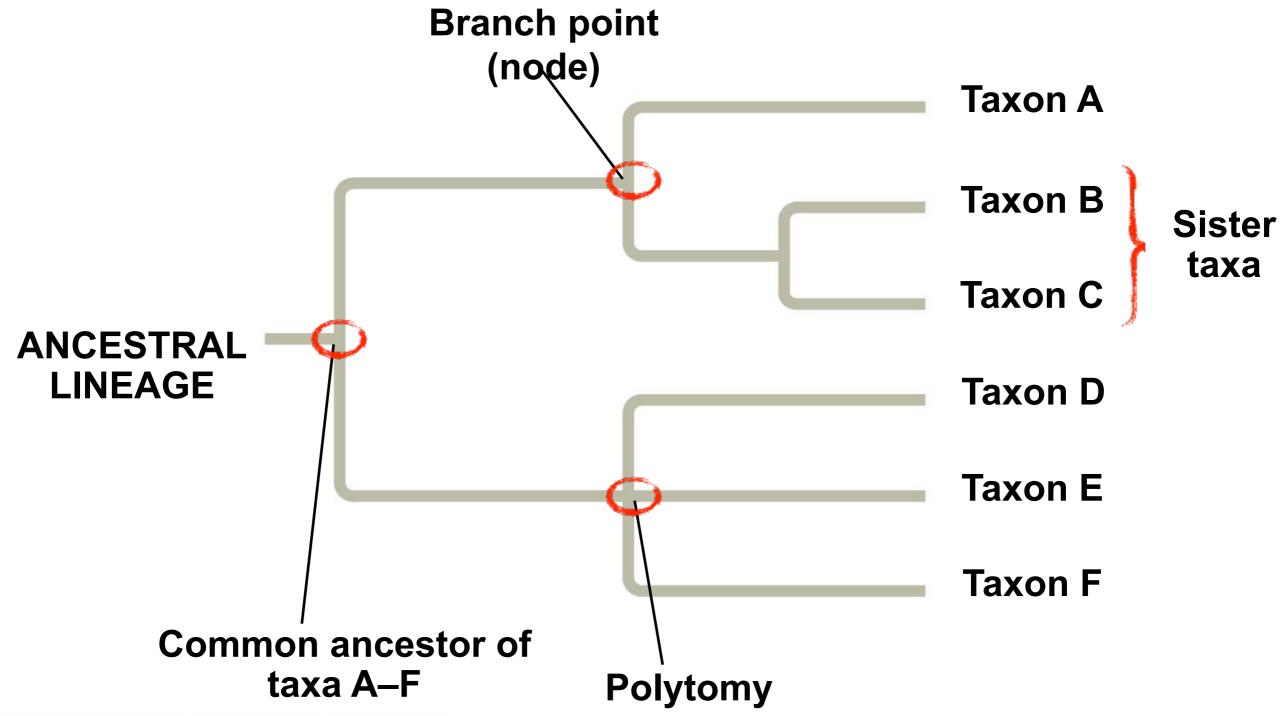


Figure 1. Three formats for depicting cladograms: (a) tree, (b) ladder, and (c) other.



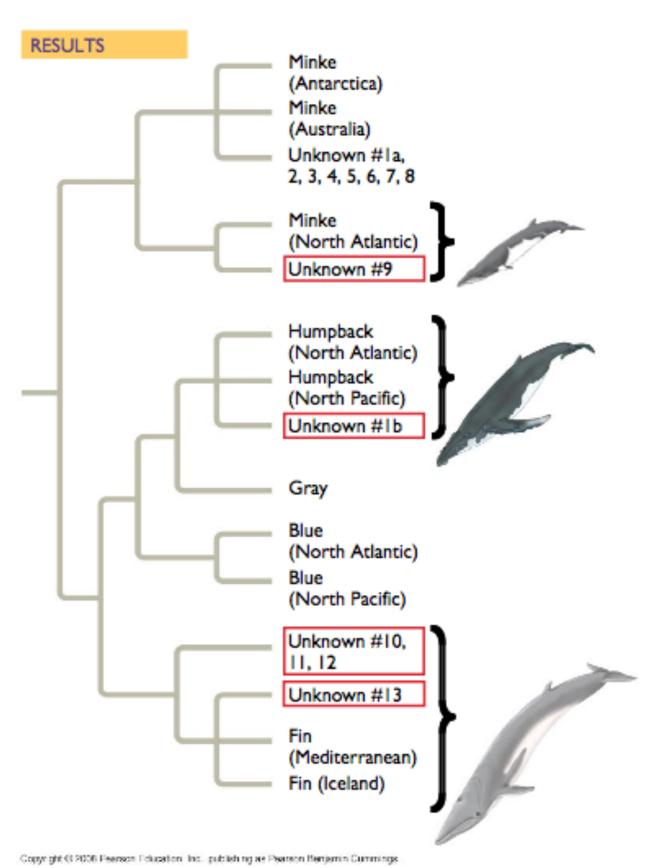
- A rooted tree includes a branch to represent the last common ancestor of all taxa in the tree
- A polytomy is a branch from which more than two groups emerge



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What We Can and Cannot Learn from Phylogenetic Trees

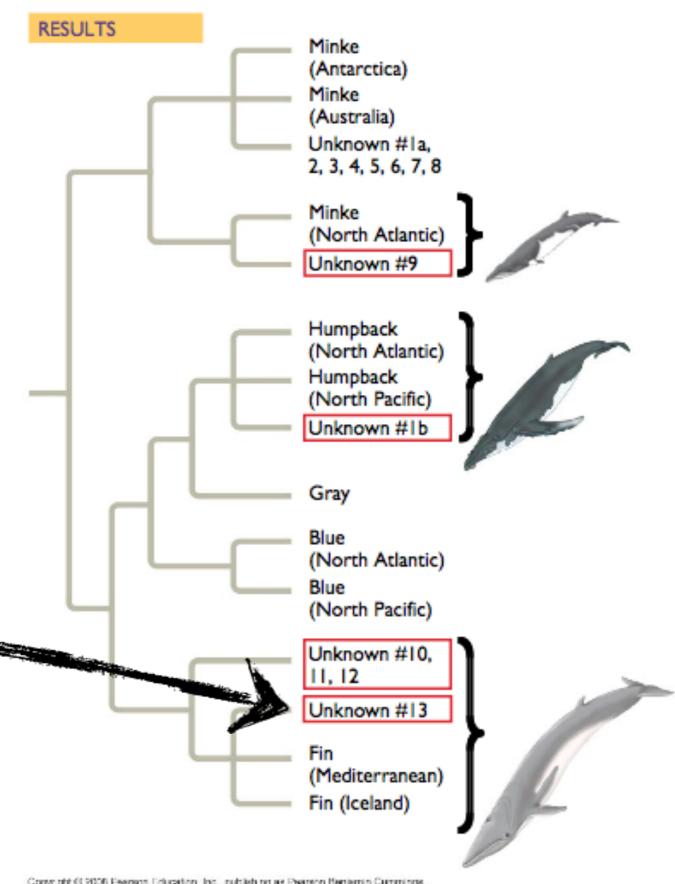
- Phylogenetic trees do show patterns of descent
- This phylogenetic tree does not indicate when species evolved or how much genetic change occurred in a lineage
- It shouldn't be assumed that a taxon evolved from the taxon next to it



Unknown #13 is most closely related to:

- (a) Gray whale
- (b) Blue whale
- (c) Fin whale
- (d) Minke whale or

(e) Humpback whale



Applying Phylogenies

- Phylogeny provides important information about similar characteristics in closely related species
- A phylogeny was used to identify the species of whale from which "whale meat" originated

Where did this fish come from?and what is redfish and whitefish anyway?



Phylogenies are inferred from morphological and molecular data

- To infer phylogenies, systematists gather information about morphologies, genes, and biochemistry of living organisms
- Organisms with similar morphologies or DNA sequences are likely to be more closely related than organisms with different structures or sequences

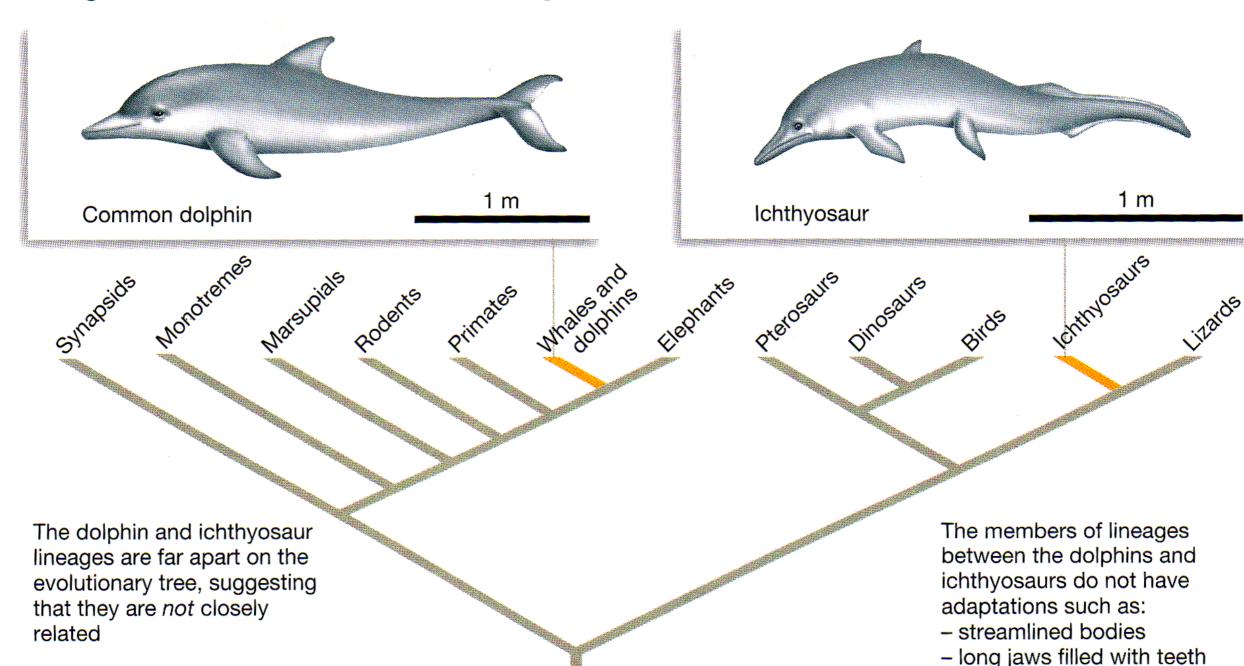
Identifying Homology and Analogy

- When constructing a phylogeny, systematists need to distinguish whether a similarity is the result of homology or analogy
- Homology is similarity due to shared ancestry
- Analogy is similarity due to convergent evolution



Convergent evolution occurs when similar environmental pressures and natural selection produce similar (analogous) adaptations in organisms from different evolutionary lineages

(a) Analogous traits: Similarities result from convergent evolution.

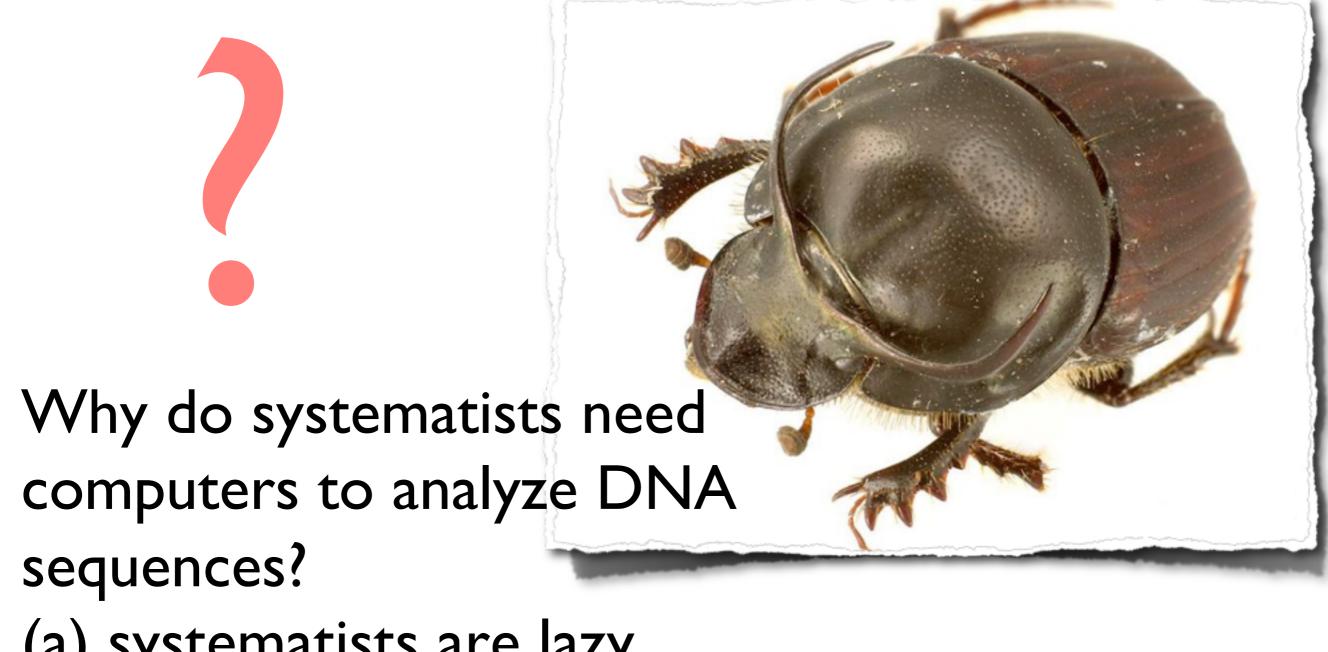


- fins and flippers

- Bat and bird wings are homologous as forelimbs, but analogous as functional wings
- Analogous structures or molecular sequences that evolved independently are also called homoplasies
- Homology can be distinguished from analogy by comparing fossil evidence and the degree of complexity
- The more complex two similar structures are, the more likely it is that they are homologous

Evaluating Molecular Homologies

Systematists use computer programs and mathematical tools when analyzing comparable DNA segments from different organisms



- (a) systematists are lazy
- (b) there are too many phylogenetic trees to evaluate
- (c) it is the right thing to do
- (d) there are too many beetles

The number of possible trees can be astronomically large

- for 5 species there are 15 trees possible (fully resolved)
- the number of trees increases explosively as the number of species goes up
- 50 species = 3×10^{76} possible unrooted trees
- 30 million species (the estimated to be alive to day = $10^{300,000,000}$)
- no computer today can search through that quantity of trees

$$(2n-3)!! = \frac{(2n-3)!}{2^{n-2}(n-2)!}$$
, for $n \ge 2$

total rooted trees and

$$(2n-5)!! = \frac{(2n-5)!}{2^{n-3}(n-3)!}$$
, for $n \ge 3$

I taxon = I tree
2 taxa = I tree
3 taxa = 4 trees
4 taxa = 26 trees....

ABLE 1. THE NUMBERS OF ROOTED TREES WITH R LABELLED TIPS AND WITH UNLABELLED INTERIOR NODES. THE LEFT COLUMN COUNTS ALL TREES, THE RIGHT COLUMN ONLY BIFURCATING TREES.

	All trees	Bifurcating trees	
1	1	1	
2	1	1	
3	4	3	
4	26	15	
5	(236)	105	
6	2,752	945	
7	39,208	10,395	
8	660,032	135,135	
9	12,818,912	2,027,025	
10 11	282,137,824	34,459,425	
12	6,939,897,856 188,666,182,784	654,729,075 13,749,310,575	
13	5,617,349,020,544	316.234,143,225	
14	181,790,703,209,728	7.905.853.580.625	
	6.353,726,042,486,112	213,458,046,676,875	
15 16	238,513,970,965,250,048	6,190,283,353,629,375	
17	9,571,020,586,418,569,216	191,898,783,962,510,625	
18	408,837,905,660,430,516,224	6,332,659,870,762,850,625	
19	18,522,305,410,364,568,764,416	221,643,095,476,699,771,875	
20	887,094,711,304,094,583,095,296	8,200,794,532,637,891,559,375	
21	44,782,218,857,751,551,087,214,592	319,830,986,772,877,770,815,625	
22	2,376,613,641,928,796,906,249,519,104	13,113,070,457,687,988,603,440,625	

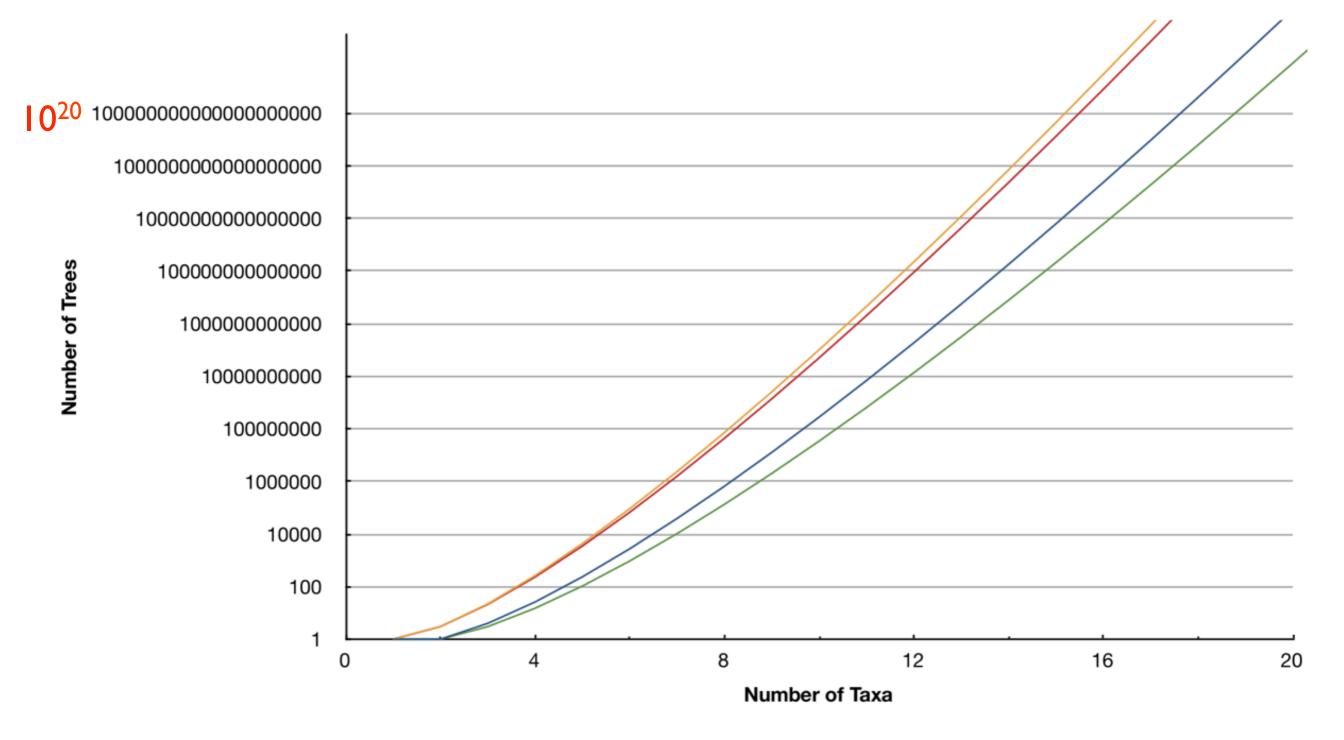
arise directly from a pre-existing interior node only if that node has only one immediate descendant. It must therefore always be a labelled interior node (although some of the labelled interior nodes will have two immediate descendants). There will be different numbers

Table 2. The numbers of rooted trees with n labelled species, allowing multifurcations and allowing some interior nodes to be labelled.

5	Number of trees	
1		1
2		3
3		22

of ways of adding species n to a tree, depending on how many of these eligible labelled interior nodes there are. Letting n = number of labelled nodes, m = number of labelled interior nodes with two descendant, and p = number of labelled interior nodes with exactly one descendant, we wish to compute V(n, m, p), so that by addition over all m and p we can obtain the total number of bifurcating trees with partially labelled interior nodes (as before, including the case where none is labelled). The recurrence relation is:

How many trees did you say?



- Rooted trees with n labelled tips, multifurcating, with unlabelled interior nodes
- Rooted trees with n labelled tips, bifurcating, with unlabelled interior nodes
- Rooted trees with n labelled tips, multifurcating, allowing some interior nodes to be labelled
- Rooted trees with n labelled tips, bifurcating, allowing some interior nodes to be labelled

1 CCATCAGAGTCC 2 CCATCAGAGTCC

- Deletion
- 2 1 CCATCAGAGTCC
 - 2 CCATCAGAGTCC
 - GTA Insertion



- 1 CCATCAAGTCC
 - 2 CCATGTACAGAGTCC



1 CCAT___CA_AGTCC 2 CCATGTACAGAGTCC

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- It is also important to distinguish homology from analogy in molecular similarities
- Mathematical tools help to identify molecular homoplasies, or coincidences

Molecular systematics uses DNA and other molecular data to determine evolutionary relationships

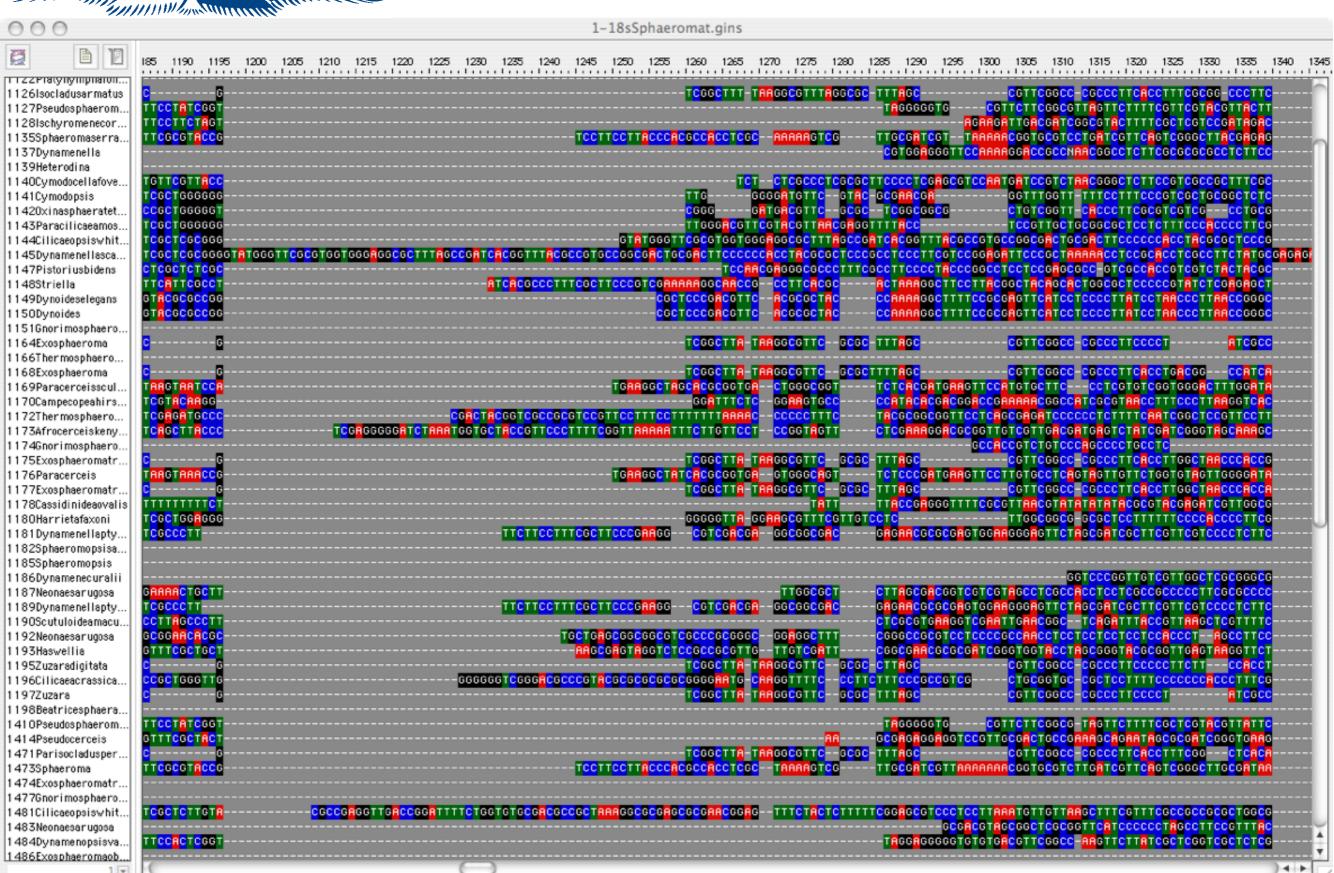
Stems - 18S rDNA



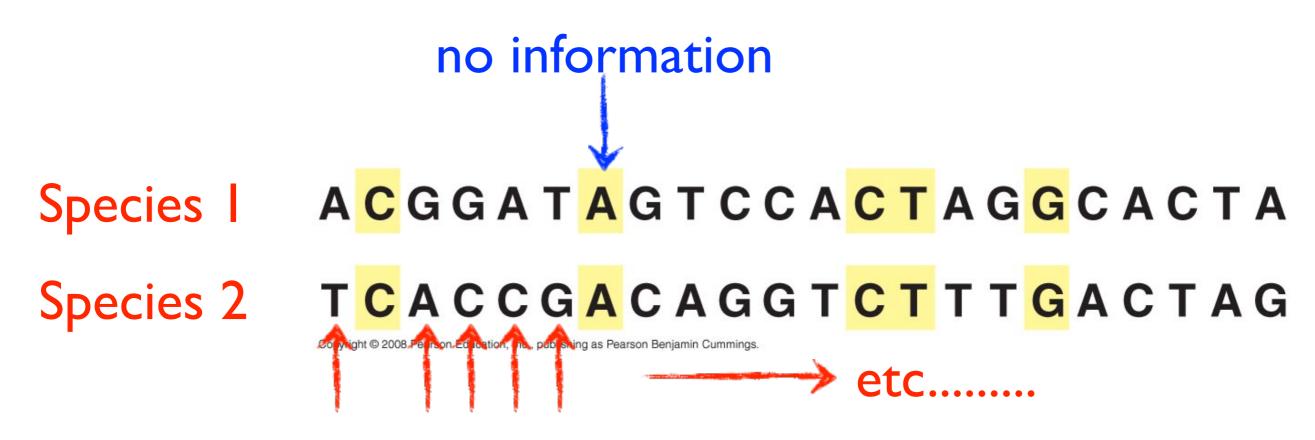
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Hyper-variable regions - 18S rDNA



Shared characters are used to construct phylogenetic trees

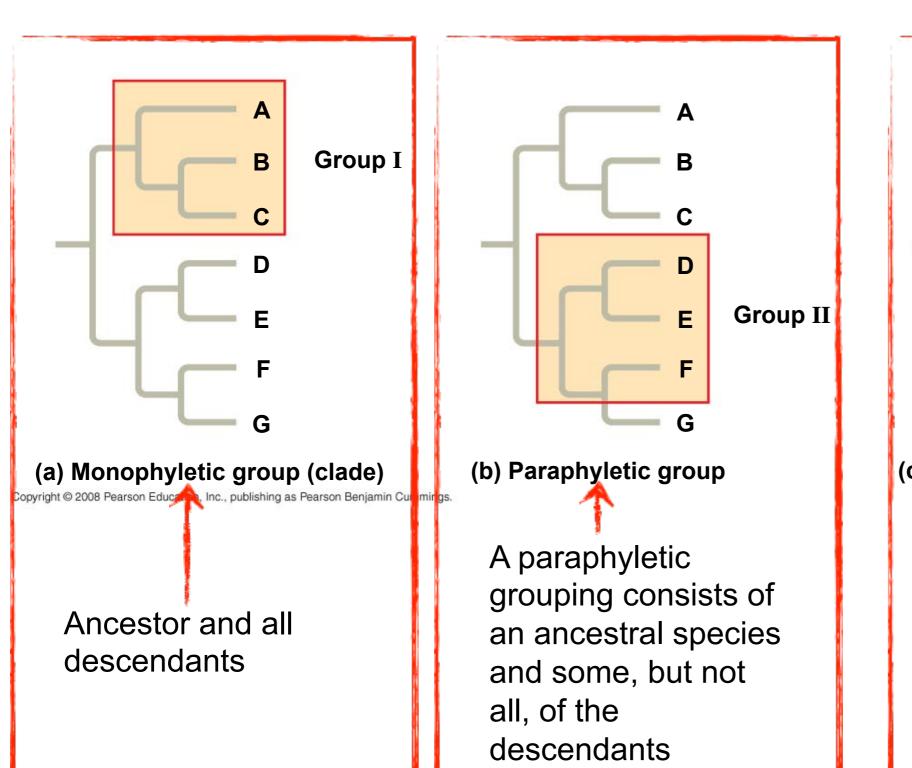


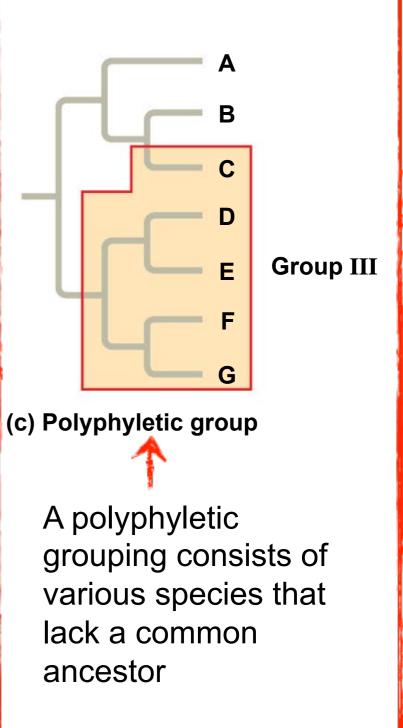
Once homologous characters have been identified, they can be used to infer a phylogeny

Cladistics

Cladistics groups organisms by common descent

- A clade is a group of species that includes an ancestral species and all its descendants
- Clades can be nested in larger clades, but not all groupings of organisms qualify as clades
- A valid clade is monophyletic, signifying that it consists of the ancestor species and all its descendants





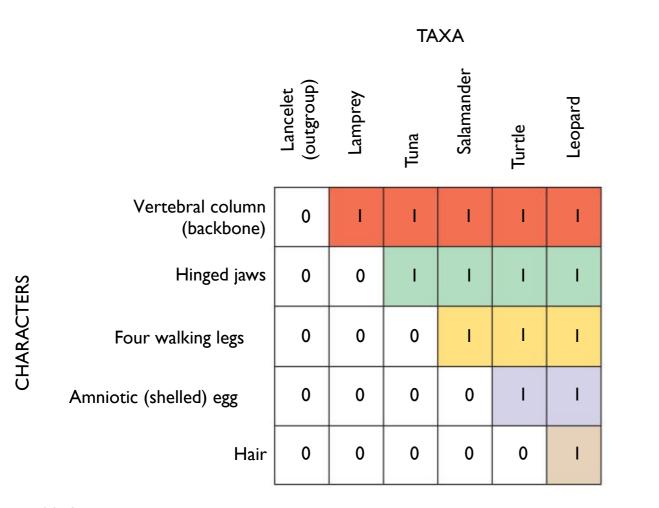
Shared Ancestral and Shared Derived Characters

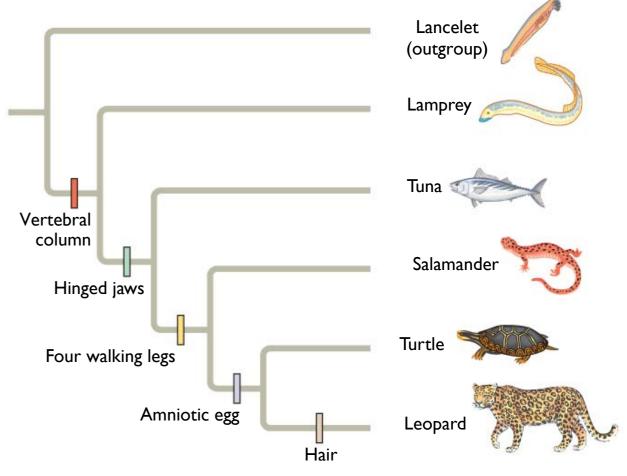
In comparison with its ancestor, an organism has both shared and different characteristics

- A shared ancestral character is a character that originated in an ancestor of the taxon
- A shared derived character is an evolutionary novelty unique to a particular clade
- A character can be both ancestral and derived, depending on the context

Inferring Phylogenies Using Derived Characters

When inferring evolutionary relationships, it is useful to know in which clade a shared derived character first appeared

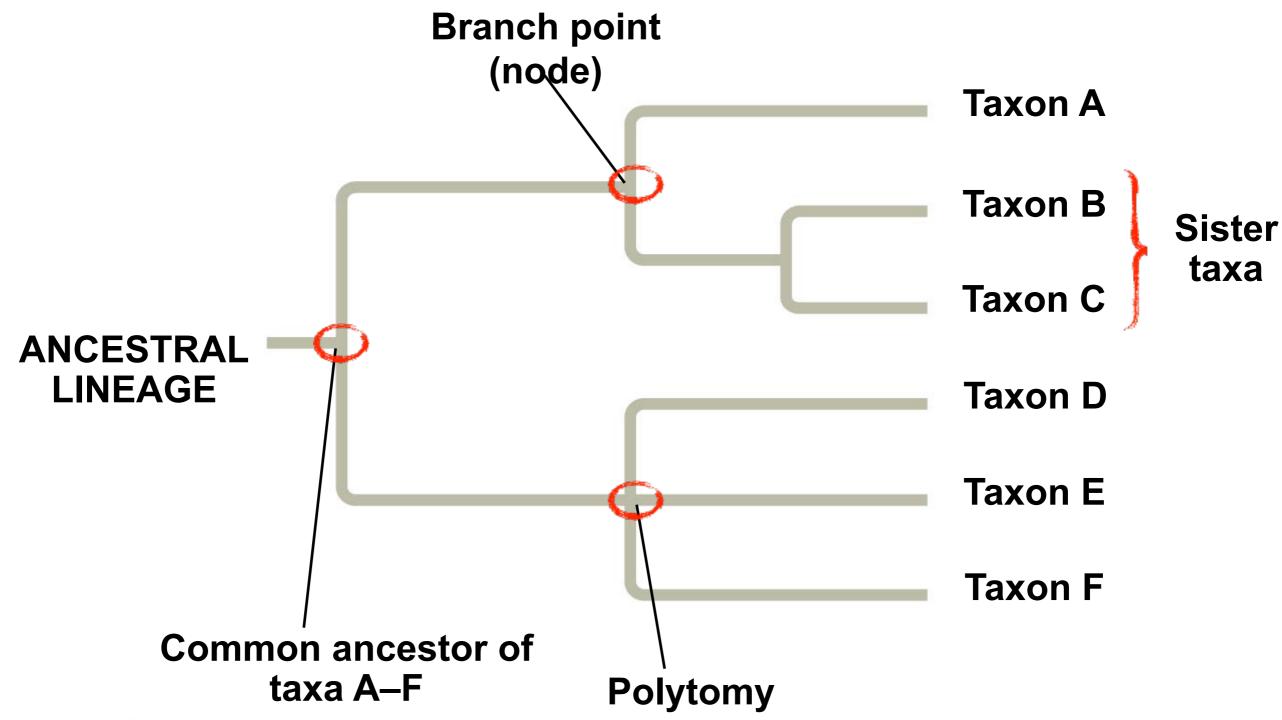




(a) Character table

(b) Phylogenetic tree

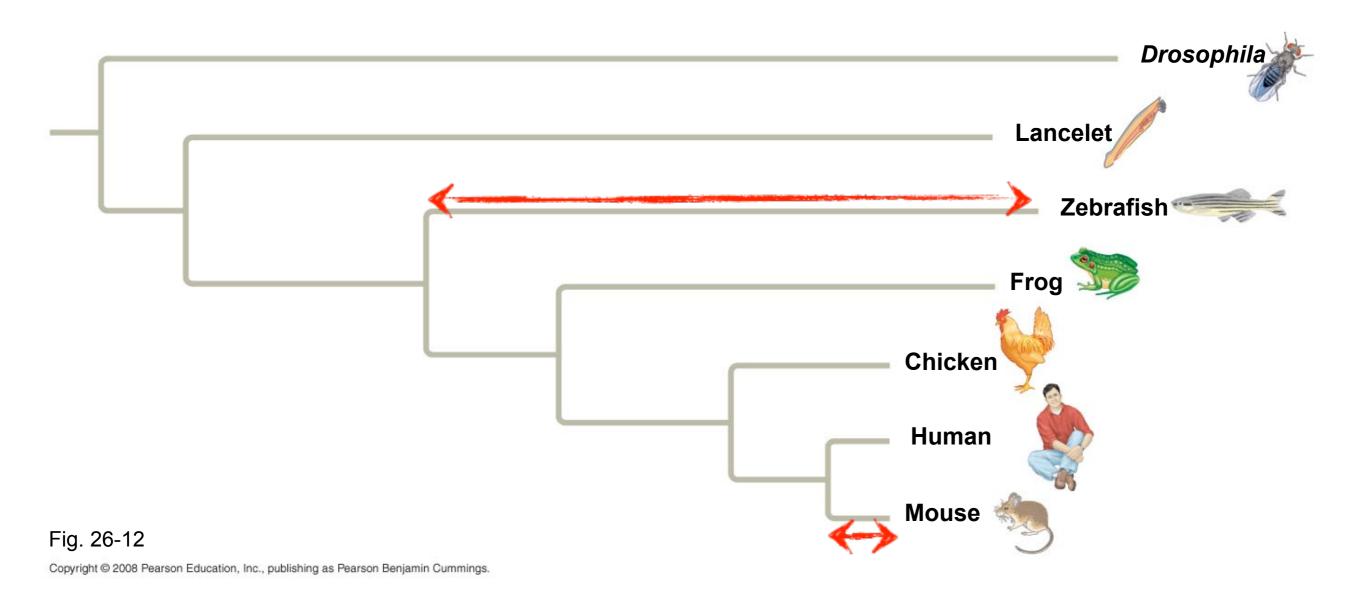
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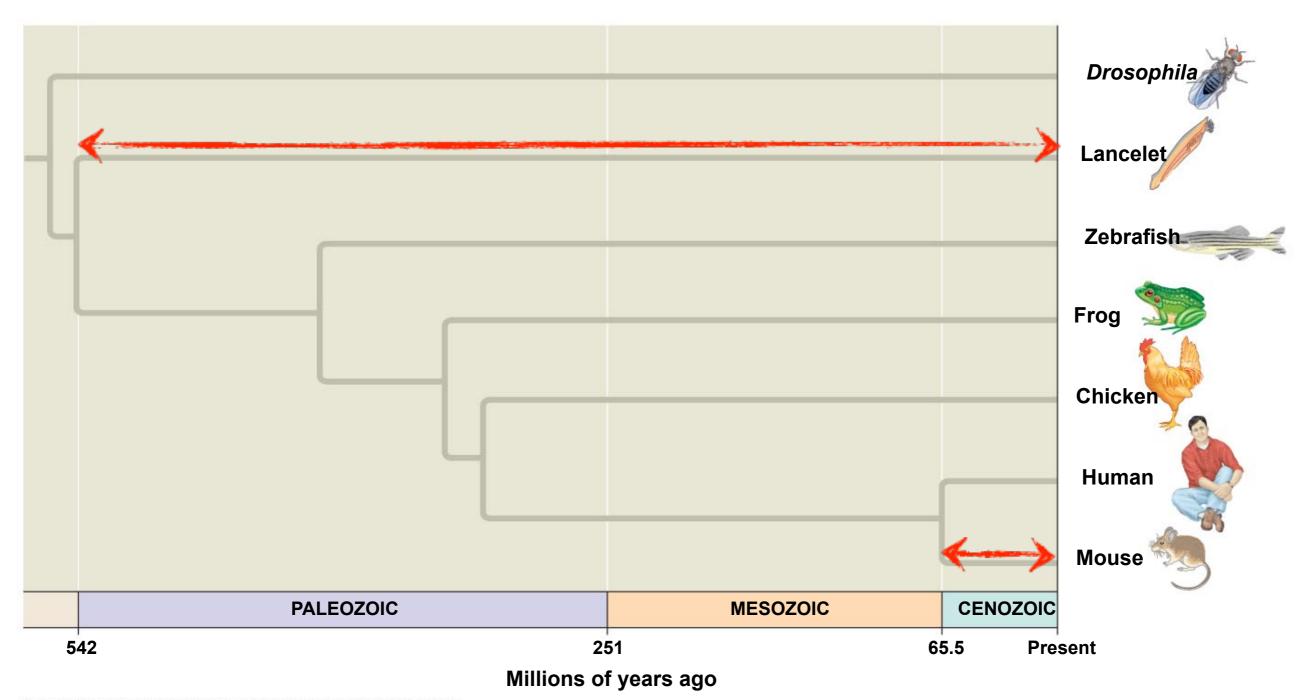
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Phylogenetic Trees with Proportional Branch Lengths

In some trees, the length of a branch can reflect the number of genetic changes that have taken place in a particular DNA sequence in that lineage



In other trees, branch length can represent chronological time, and branching points can be determined from the fossil record



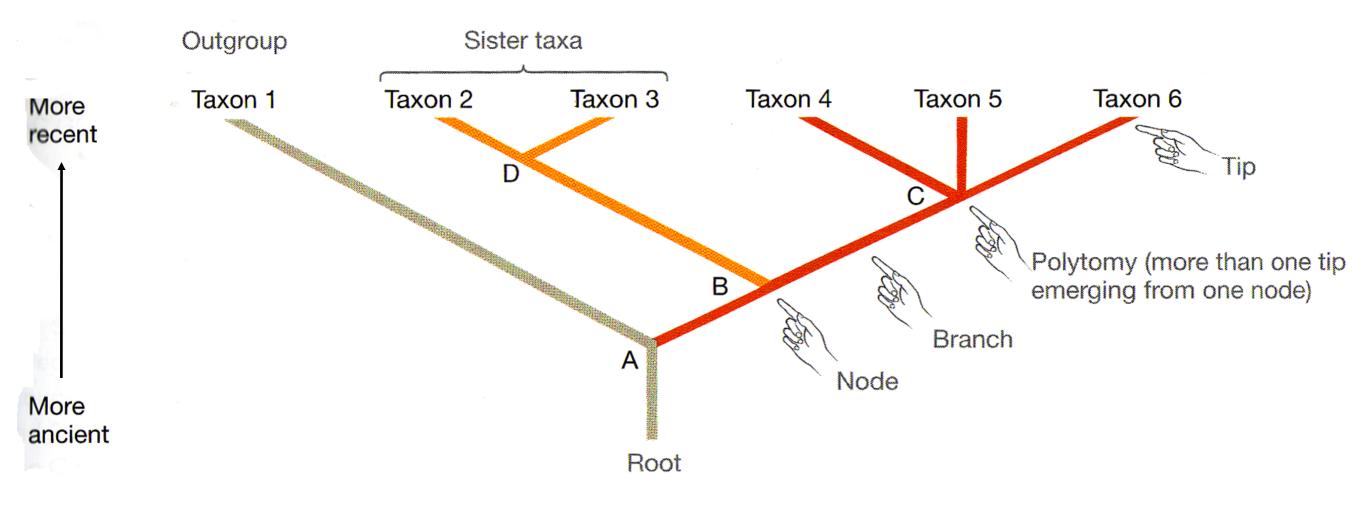
Maximum Parsimony and Maximum Likelihood

- Systematists can never be sure of finding the best tree in a large data set
- They narrow possibilities by applying the principles of maximum parsimony, maximum likelihood, Bayesian inference, and soon simultaneous analyses

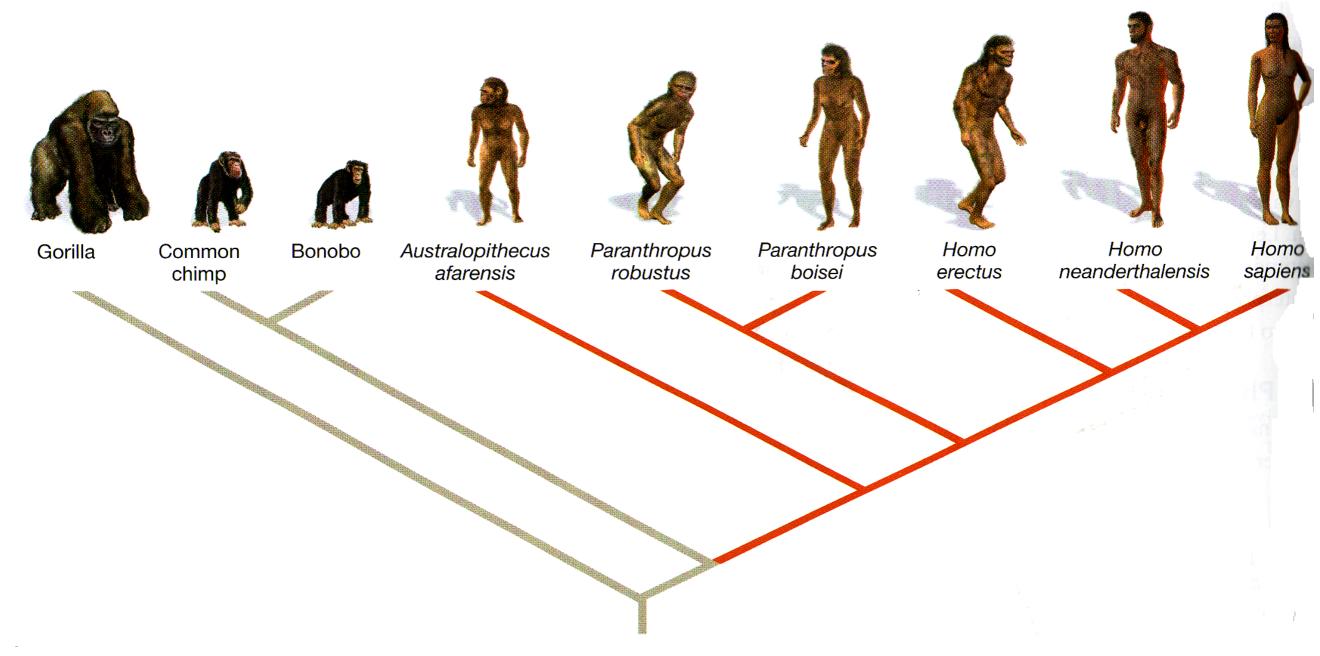
Maximum parsimony assumes that the tree that requires the fewest evolutionary events (appearances of shared derived characters) is the most likely

The principle of maximum likelihood states that, given certain rules about how DNA changes over time, a tree can be found that reflects the most likely sequence of evolutionary events

Reviewing Phylogenetic Trees

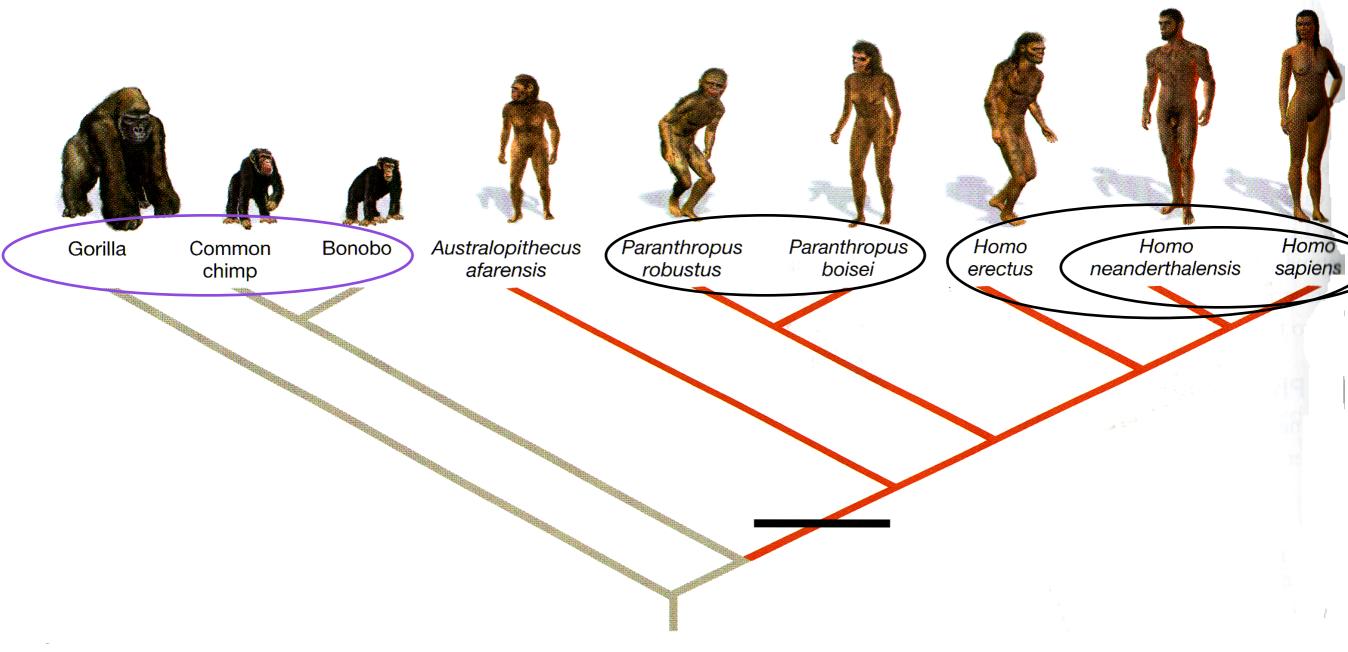


Example of Phylogenetic Tree



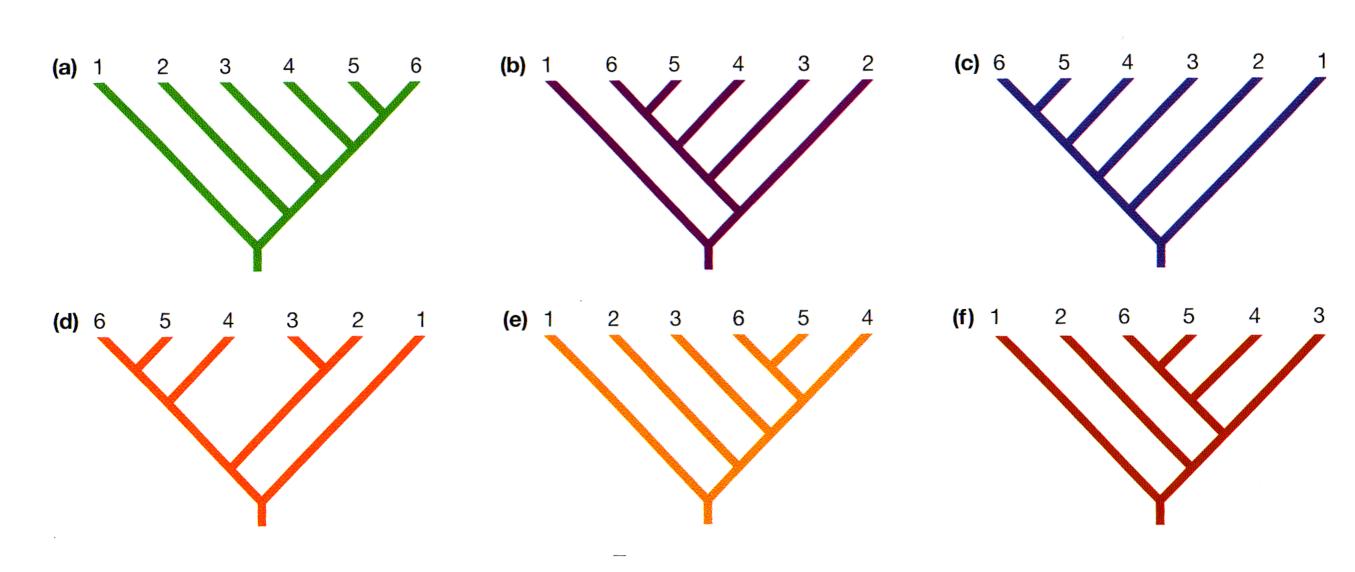
A phylogenetic tree showing the relationships among some of the great apes. Chimps and gorillas walk on all four legs, but all other species on this tree walk on two legs and are considered hominins. **EXERCISE** Add a mark on the phylogeny, and label it "origin of walking on two legs." Circle and label a pair of sister species. Circle and label the monophyletic group called hominins. Label one of the outgroups to the hominins.

Example of Phylogenetic Tree



A phylogenetic tree showing the relationships among some of the great apes. Chimps and gorillas walk on all four legs, but all other species on this tree walk on two legs and are considered hominins. **EXERCISE** Add a mark on the phylogeny, and label it "origin of walking on two legs." Circle and label a pair of sister species. Circle and label the monophyletic group called hominins. Label one of the outgroups to the hominins.

Alternative ways of drawing the same tree

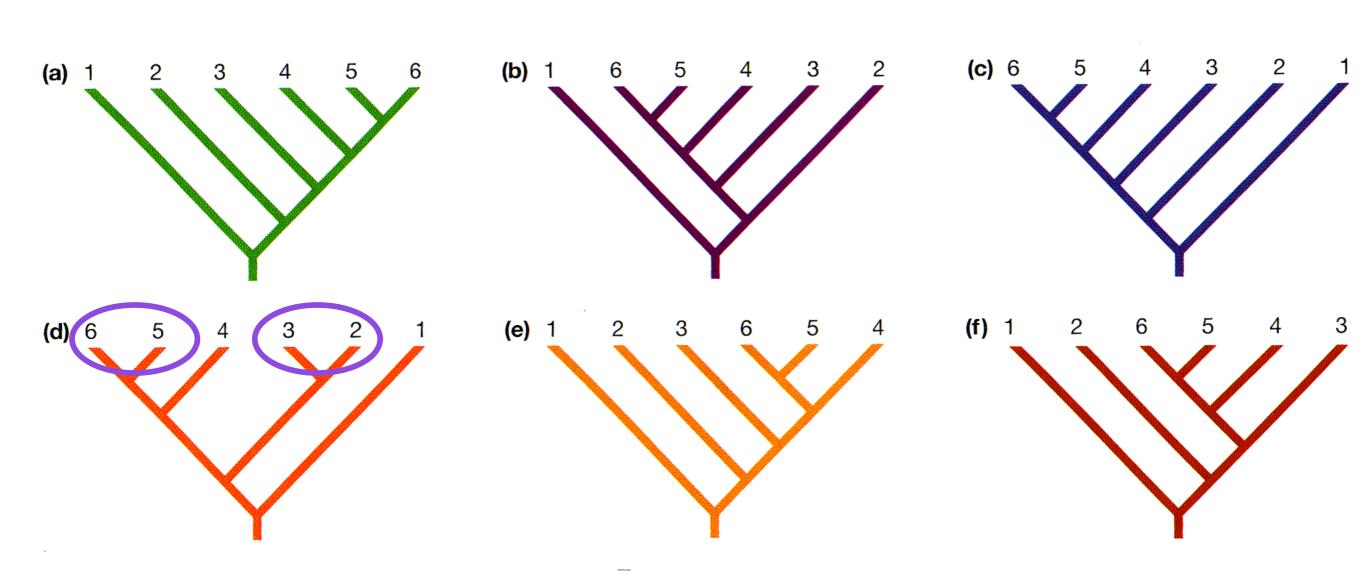


QUESTION Five of these six trees describe exactly the same relationships among taxa 1 through 6. Identify the tree that is different from the other five.

Five of these six trees describe EXACTLY the same relationship among taxa I through 6. Which tree is different from the other five?



Alternative ways of drawing the same tree

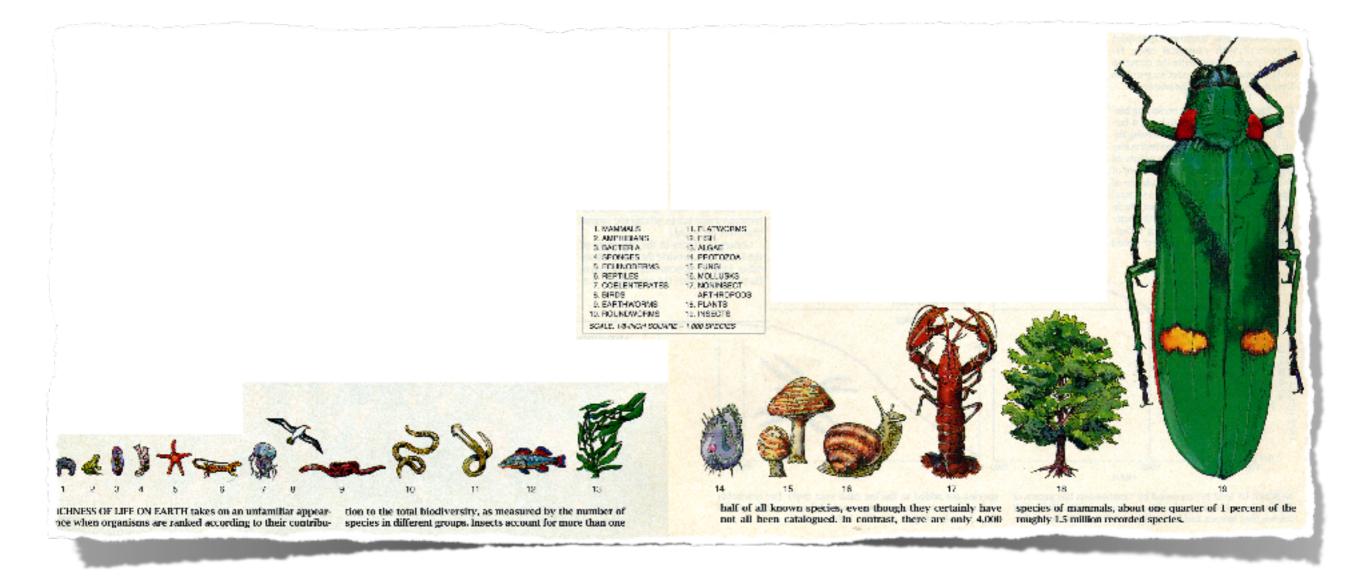


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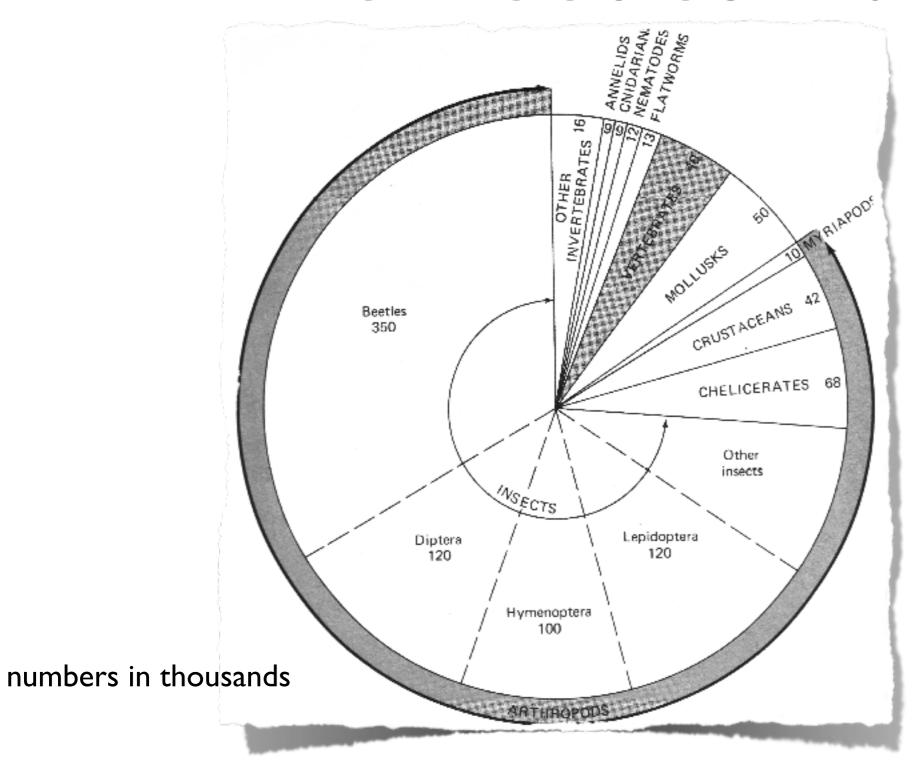
Biodiversity

 more than I million arthropod species described

 zoologists estimate 3 million to 100 million undescribed species

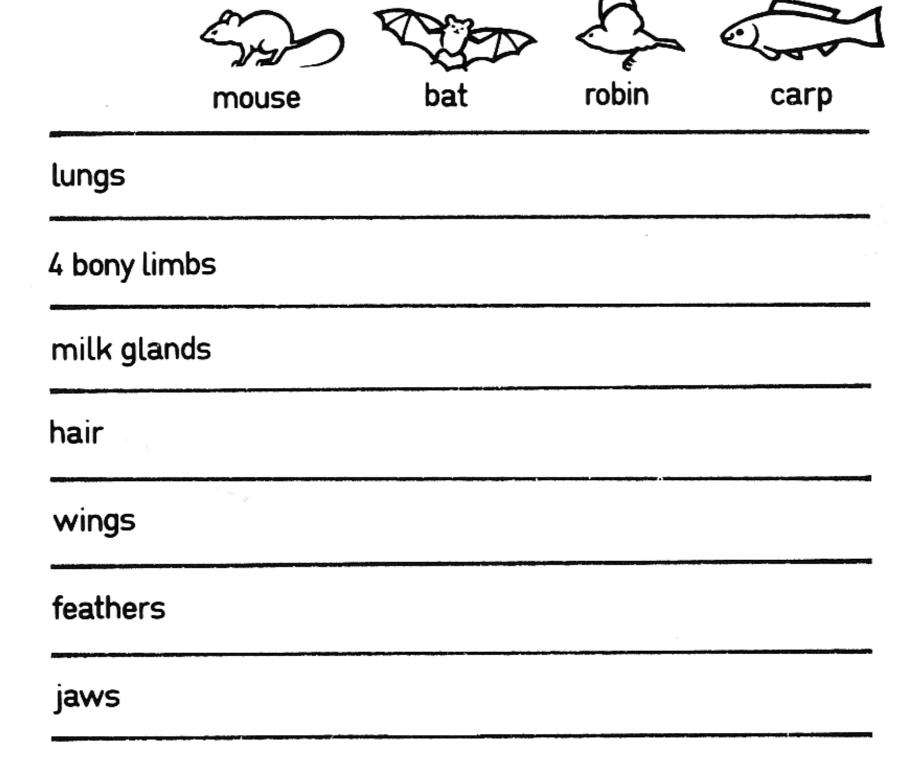


The Beetles Rule



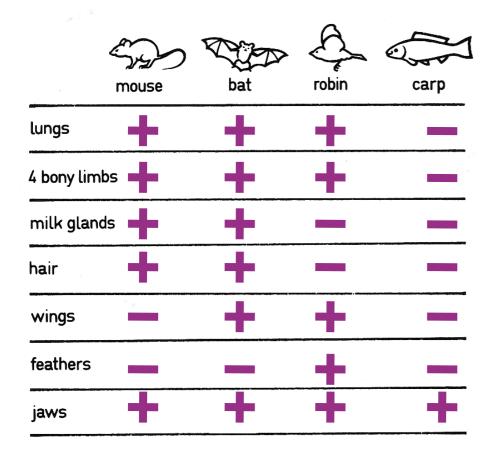


Data Matrix

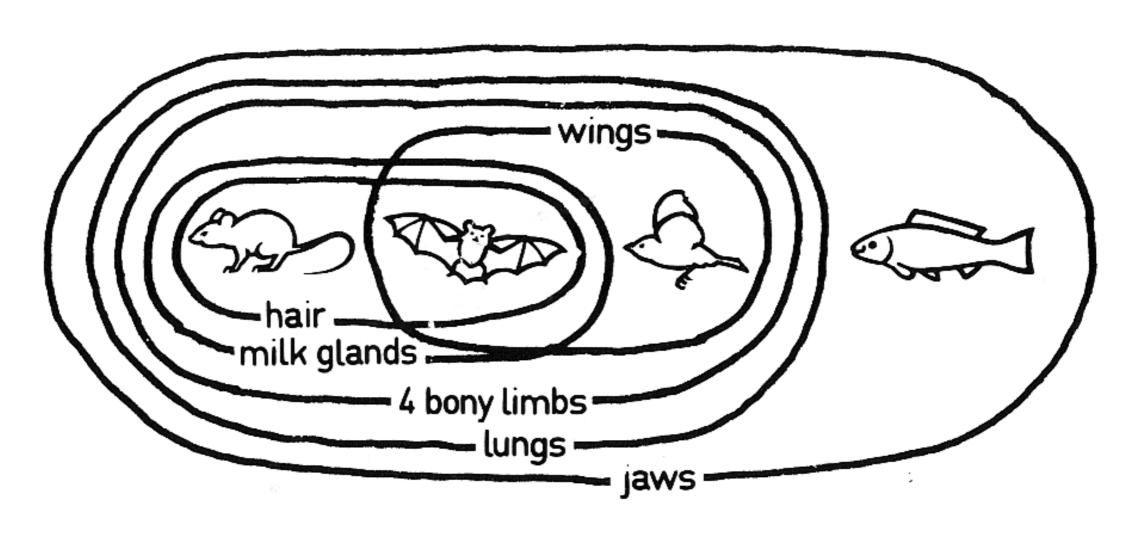


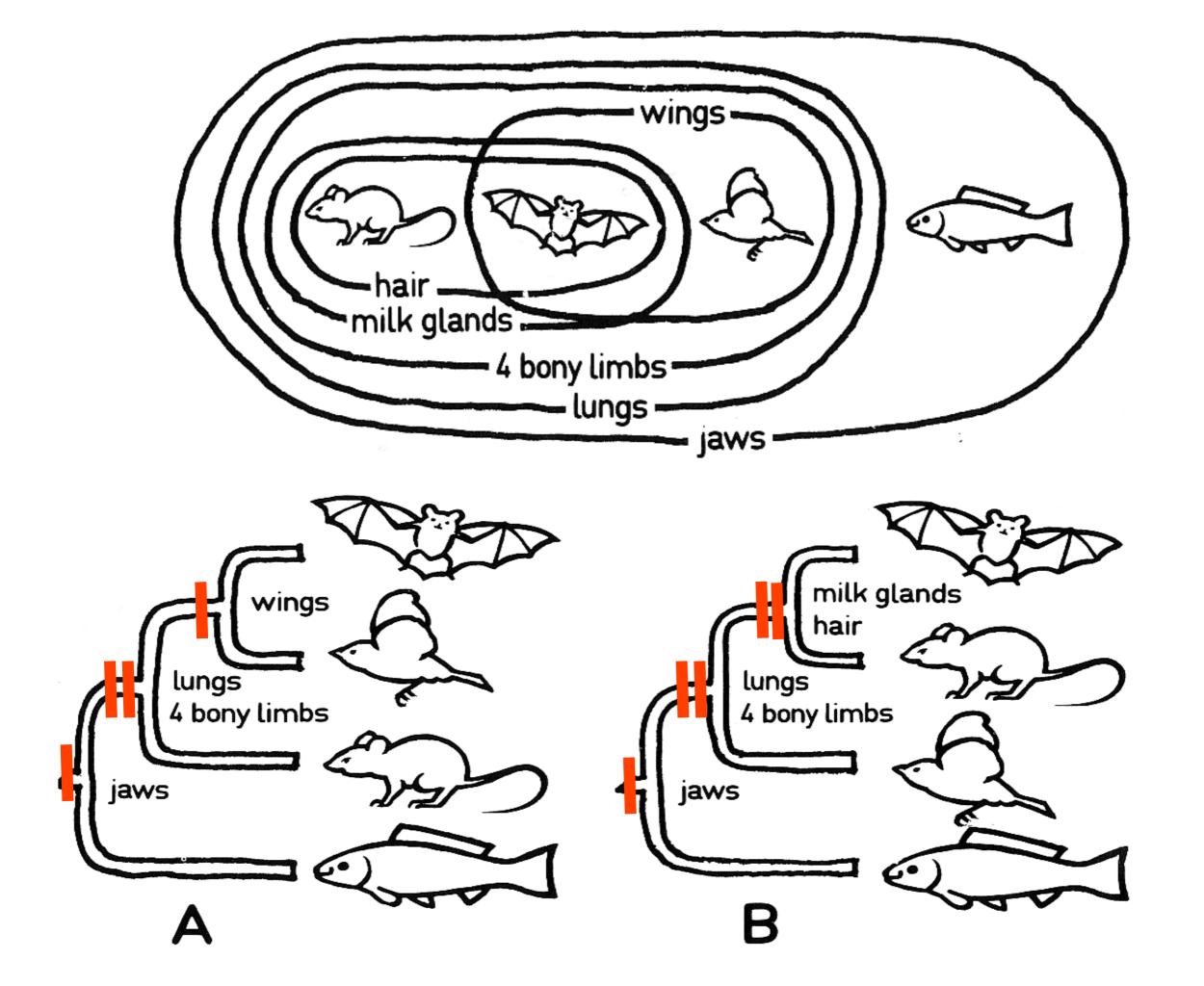
Data Matrix

			^	
	5	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR		
	mouse	bat	robin	carp
lungs		+	+	
4 bony limb	os 🕂	+	+	
milk gland	s 🕂	+		
hair		+		
wings		+	+	
feathers			+	
jaws	+	+	+	+
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Sort into groups

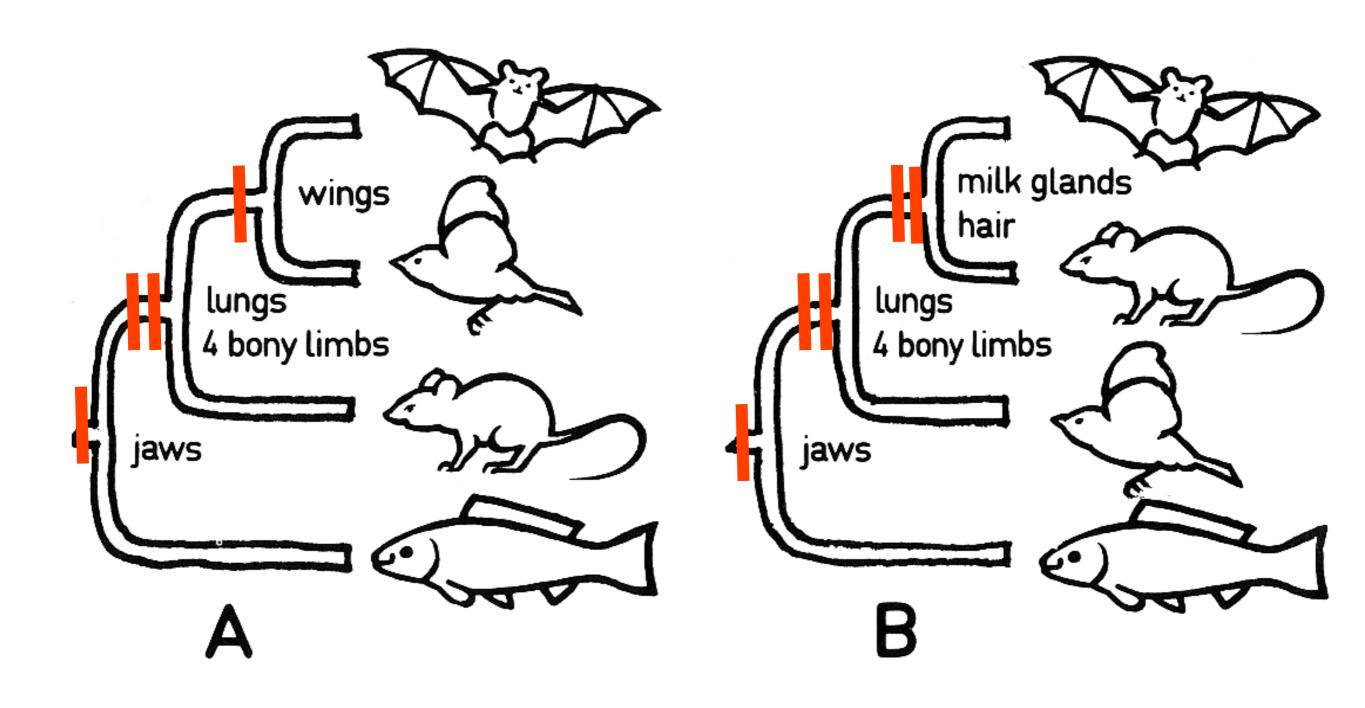




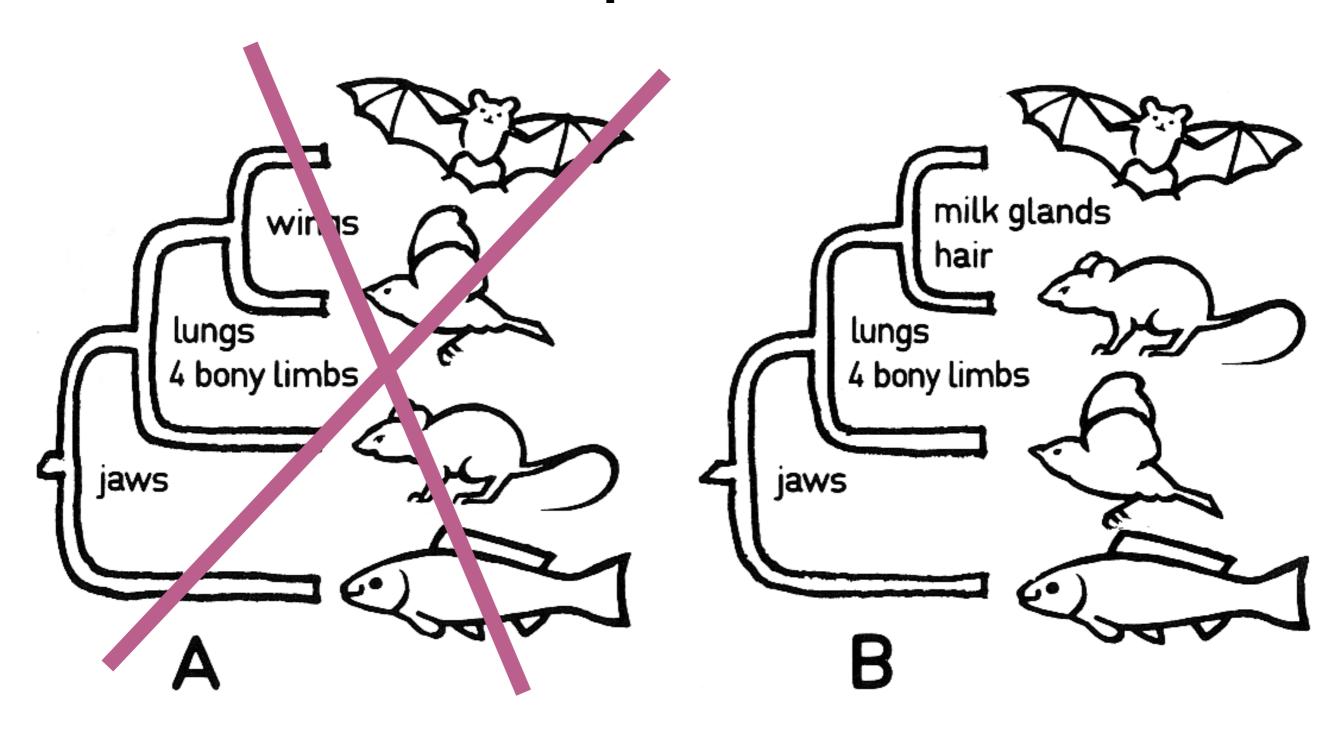
So which of the two phylogenies would you select as the better supported phylogenetic hypothesis?



Multiple trees



Multiple trees



Choose cladogram B, because it is supported by 5 shared features. Cladogram A is supported by only 4 shared features.