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 <u>domain</u>, <u>kingdom</u>, <u>phylum</u>, <u>class</u>, <u>order</u>, <u>family</u>, <u>genus</u>, <u>and species</u>
- A taxonomic unit at any level of hierarchy is called a taxon













 $\underline{\mbox{Sister taxa}}$ are groups that share an immediate common ancestor









- 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









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 due to convergent evolution



- 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



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

$$\begin{split} (2n-3)!! &= \frac{(2n-3)!}{2^{n-2}(n-2)!} \text{, for } n \geq 2\\ \text{total rooted trees and} \\ (2n-5)!! &= \frac{(2n-5)!}{2^{n-3}(n-3)!} \text{, for } n \geq 3 \end{split}$$

Joseph Felsenstein, 1978

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• Mathematical tools help to identify molecular homoplasies, or coincidences

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









































	Data Matrix					
	mouse	bat	robin	carp		
lungs	+	+	+			
4 bony lin	nbs 🕂	+	+			
milk glar	nds 🕂	+	—			
hair	+	+	—			
wings		+	+			
feathers	_	_	+			
jaws	+	+	+	+		









An Introduction to Animal Diversity



Animal Diversity

- 3 domains (Archaea, Bacteria, Eukarya)
- Within the Eukarya (protists, plants, fungi, animals)
- 35 phyla of animals --- 95% of all animals are INVERTEBRATES!







Animal diversification began more than half a billion years ago

- The oldest generally accepted animal fossils that have been found are 575–550 million years old.
- Animal diversification appears to have accelerated rapidly from 535 to 525 MYA, during the Cambrian period, known as the <u>Cambrian explosion</u>.
- The most celebrated source of Cambrian fossils is the Burgess Shale containing a cornucopia of perfectly preserved animal fossils.







Details on the Cambrian explosion

Possibly caused by

- increasingly complex predator-prey relationships or
- an increase in atmospheric oxygen.

Much of the diversity in body form among the animal phyla is associated with variations in where and when homeotic genes are expressed within developing embryos.

Of the 35 or so animal phyla, all but one are invertebrates, (they lack vertebra).

www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/cambrian/camb.html

Properties of animals

Burgess Shale deposits

(Canada Rockies)

Eukaryotes

Heterotrophs

No cell walls

Eat by ingestion (mostly true)

Some exceptions (e.g. tape worms)

Diploid (mostly true)

Some exceptions (e.g. some social insects)

Sexual (mostly true)

Some exceptions (e.g. parthenogenesis in some sharks or jellyfish)



9 General Animal Characteristics

- I. Animals are multicellular
- 2. Cells lack cell walls
- 3. Animals are heterotrophic (vs. autotrophic)
- Most reproduce sexually w/diploid stage usually dominating life cycle
 After a sperm fertilizes an egg the zygote undergoes cleavage, leading
- to the formation of a blastula, embryonic tissues and gastrula.
- 6. <u>Cell specialization</u>: specialized neural cells (nervous tissue) and muscle cells (muscle tissue) are unique to animals
- During development <u>three germ layers give rise to the tissues and</u> organs of the animal embryo. Animal body plans vary by organization of tissues.
- 8. Tissues are held together by structural proteins such as collagen.
- 9. All animals, and only animals, have the highly conserved Hox family of genes that regulate the development of diverse body form.





Animals can be characterized by basic features of their "body plan"

- Animal body plans vary in
 - presence of true tissues
 - symmetry
 - number of embryonic layers
 - presence of a body cavity
 - details of their embryonic development
- These characters, as well as DNA sequence, can be used to determine the phylogeny of animals.











Phylum Arthropoda

The most abundant phylum!

- There are > I million species of arthropods (including crayfish, lobsters, crabs, barnacles, spiders, ticks, and insects, many zooplankton).
 Arthropods have
- Arthropods have
 - an open circulatory system and
 an exoskeleton of chiton, an external skeleton that protects the animal but must be shed in the process of molting to permit growth.
 - The body of most arthropods includes a head, thorax, and abdomen, although these segments may be fused.









- is completely covered by the cuticle, an exoskeleton made of chitin
- When an arthropod grows
 - it molts its exoskeleton in a process called ecdysis
 - ecdysiast = stripper



































Molluscs: Gastropods

The largest group of molluscs and include the snails and slugs.

- found in fresh water, marine, and terrestrial environments,
- the only molluscs that live on land, using the mantle cavity as a lung, and
- often protected by a single, spiral shell.
- Slugs have lost their mantle and shell and some have long colorful projections that function as gills.



 Molluscs: Bivalves

 Image: Strate of the strate of

 Most bivalves are sedentary suspension feeders, attached to the substrate by strong threads.





Phylum Annelida: The segmented worms

Annelids have

- **segmentation**, the subdivision of the body along its length into a series of repeated parts,
- a **true coelom** that functions as a hydrostatic skeleton,
- triploblastic tissue organization
- a **nervous system** that includes a simple brain and ventral nerve cord, and
- a **closed circulatory system** in which blood remains enclosed in vessels throughout the body.

Annelids are found in damp soil, the sea, and most freshwater habitats.









Phylum: Cnidaria

- Characterized by <u>radial symmetry</u> <u>Two tissue layers</u>—epidermis and digestive lining—with a jelly-filled ٠ middle region.
- Cnida (nematocysts) stinging cells (hallmark of the phyla)

Cnidarians exhibit two kinds of body forms.

- The most sedentary **polyp** body is cylindrical with tentacles projecting from one end and/or
- The more mobile **medusa** form is exemplified by a jellyfish.































Phyla Echinodermata

Echinoderms have spiny skin, an endoskeleton, and a water vascular system for movement

Echinoderms: a diverse group including sea stars, sea cucumbers sand dollars, and sea urchins, slow-moving or sessile

- all marine
- radially symmetrical, and deuterostomes (along with the chordates). •

- Echinoderms have
 an endoskeleton of hard calcareous plates under a thin skin,
 a water vascular system based on a network of water-filled canals that branch into extensions called tube feet, and
 the ability to regenerate lost arms.







Features of our own phylum, Chordata

Contains vertebrates and their invertebrate ancestors.

The simplest chordates (tunicates and lancelets) lack a backbone.

Most **chordate** embryos and/or adults possess

- a dorsal, hollow nerve cord,
- a flexible, supportive **notochord**
- pharyngeal slits, and
- a muscular **post-anal tail**.





