

# Taxon Encyclopedia Article

## Taxon

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# Taxon

A taxon is a taxonomic group of any rank. When a new organism is discovered, its taxonomical placement may at first be unclear. Until the new organism is classified, it is normally referred to as merely a new taxon. As a twentieth century derivative of the word taxonomy, taxon can also refer to a group of organisms sharing similar characteristics when the hierarchical classification is unimportant to a scientific discussion.