

Short Note on Classification of Plants

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In the early 18th century an Italian, Carolus Linnaeus started the systematic classification of all living things leading to the what is currently known as plant or animal taxonomy. Starting with Plant Kingdom, followed by plants with vascular system (conducting tissues) n those without conducting tissues lower forms such as algae, liverworts n mosses. The vascular plants r then broken down to seed-bearing n non-seed bearing (ferns). Seed-bearing plants r broken down into Gymnosperms (non-flowering like Cycads, Ginkgo n Connifers) n Angiosperms (flowering seed plants). Flowering plants r further broken down into monocotyledons (1 seed leaf - cotyledon) n dicotyledons (2 seed leaves). Monocots have characteristic parallel veins on the leaf whereas dicots have net-like veins. Both monocots n dicots classifications start with the ORDER followed by SUB-ORDER, Family, SUB- FAMILY, GENUS, SPECIES n finally VARIETY. Flowering plants are classified according to the floral or flower structure, the same family may contain ants from soft stemmed herbaceous plants to giant trees, an example is the leguminous (pea family) from the sweet peas to the huge rain tree. The scientific naming of plants though arduous n mind-boggling enables everyone to refer to the same plant, whereas local or vernacular names may vary from society to society. I hope I did not bore u with this short presentation, but felt it would be a good presentation to those not familiar with the wonderful world of plants.