

PRINCIPLES OF ICN (ICBN)

PRINCIPLE I

The nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants is independent of zoological and prokaryotic nomenclature. This *Code* applies equally to names of taxonomic groups treated as algae, fungi, or plants, whether or not these groups were originally so treated.

PRINCIPLE II

The application of names of taxonomic groups is determined by means of nomenclatural types.

PRINCIPLE III

The nomenclature of a taxonomic group is based upon priority of publication.

PRINCIPLE IV

Each taxonomic group with a particular circumscription, position, and rank can bear only one correct name, the earliest that is in accordance with the rules, except in specified cases.

PRINCIPLE V

Scientific names of taxonomic groups are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation.

PRINCIPLE VI

The rules of nomenclature are retroactive unless expressly limited.

Taxonomic groups at any rank will be referred to as taxa (singular: taxon). Species, Genus, Family these are called ranks, therefore Hibiscus which is a taxonomic group (containing all the species of Hibiscus) under the rank of genus can be called a Taxon. Similarly, Malvaceae which is taxonomic group (containing all genus and their species of the family Malvaceae) can be called a Taxon also. Every individual organism is treated as belonging to an indefinite number of taxa at consecutively subordinate ranks, among which the rank of species is basic.

The principal ranks of taxa in descending sequence are:

kingdom (*regnum*),
division or phylum (*divisio* or *phylum*),
class (*classis*),
order (*ordo*),
family (*familia*),
genus (*genus*), and
species (*species*).

Thus, each species is assignable to a genus, each genus to a family, etc.

The secondary ranks of taxa in descending sequence are: tribe (tribus) between family and genus, section (sectio) and series (series) between genus and species, and variety (varietas) and form (forma) below species.

family (*familia*),
tribe (tribus)
genus (*genus*),
section (sectio)
series (series)
species (*species*)
variety (varietas)
form (forma)