

and that community of descent -- the one known cause of close similarity in organic beings -- is the bond which, though observed by various degrees of modification is partially revealed to us by our classifications."

-- Charles Darwin in *The Origin of Species*

"Evidence from Taxonomy, or Classification. The Linnaean system of classification of plants and animals is based upon structural resemblances between living forms and upon fossil evidence from extinct forms, indeed, the fundamental units of classification (phyla, classes, orders, etc.) are based on varying degrees of similarity of structure within each group of organisms. This grouping of plants and animals according to fundamental similarities places them in an ascending series of increasing complexity. Taxonomy (the science of biological classification), then, assumes that the closest similarities are to be found among closely related organisms and that the greatest variation will be found among those forms that are either totally unrelated or distantly related. The structural relationships on which this system of classification is based indicate a line of common descent which can best be attributed to, and explained by, the processes of organic evolution."

-- William H. Matthews III, *Fossils An Introduction to Prehistoric Life* (New York: Barnes and Noble, 1962), pp. 158-159.

"As will have become apparent, the significant assumption underlying classification is that the closest fundamental similarities between animals (or plants) are found in the forms most closely related and that the greatest differences are found in those forms which are unrelated or at best very distantly related. The assumption implies the idea of descent with modification, which is no more nor less than evolution. Using this evolutionary basis, we can arrive at an extremely satisfactory classification both of living and of extinct forms; and there is no other basis of classification that works."

-- Horatio Hackett Newman, *Evolution Genetics and Eugenics* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1956), p. 98.

"The fact that plants and animals can be classified in groups from the simple to the complex is said to be proof that they developed in the same way."

-- Cora Reno, *Evolution Fact or Theory?* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1953), p. 53.