

INTD262: Aztec Species Classification in Mesoamerica

Dr. Jordan Hanson - Whittier College Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

August 17, 2024

1 Introduction

In this activity, we will compare and contrast the Linnaean and modern species classification with what appears to be a species classification system from the Aztecs from chapter 1 of *Science in Latin America*. First, we will review, from an evolutionary perspective, why species classification makes sense. Second, we will review a modern scientific publication [1]

2 Classification of Species

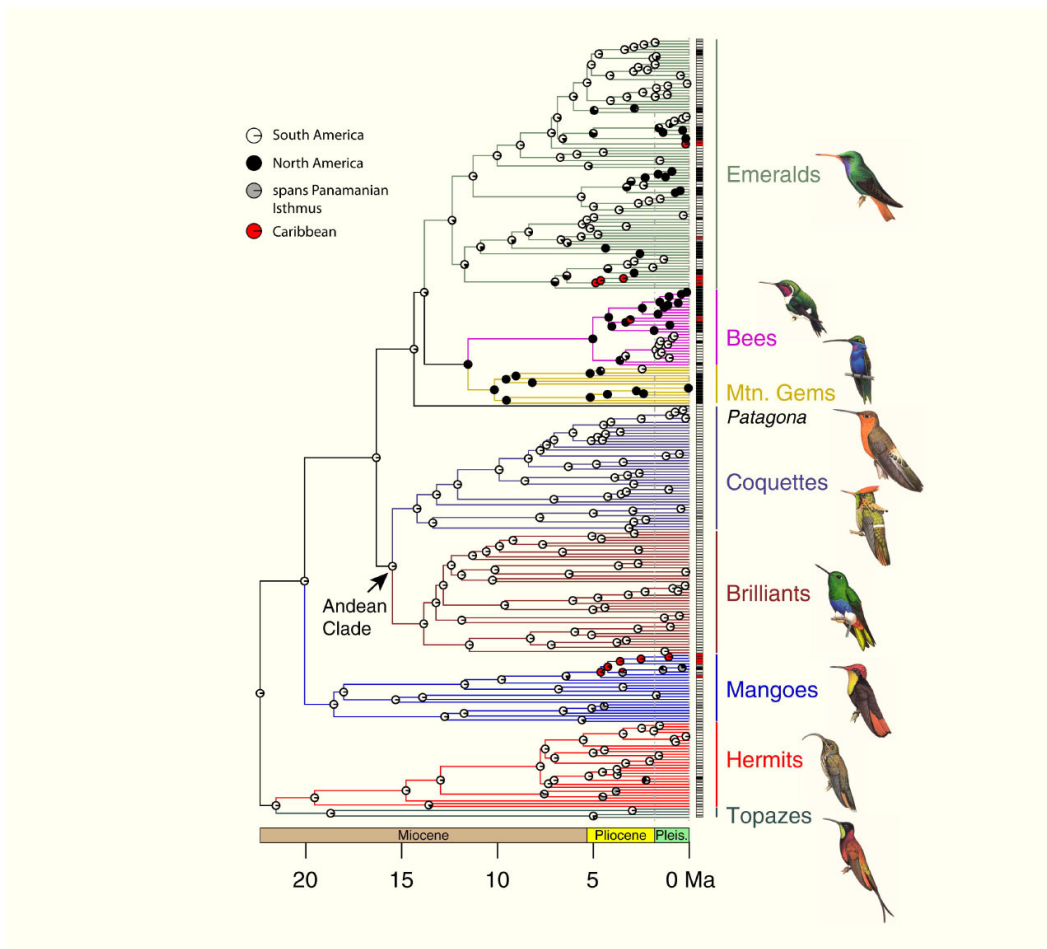


Figure 1: In a recent publication, the

- *quetzal huitzilin*
- *xi huitzilin*
- *chalchi huitzilin*
- *yiauhitic huitzilin*
- *tlapal huitzilin*
- *aiopal huitzilin*
- *tle huitzilin*
- *quapa huitzilin*

3 Conclusion

Our goal is to develop a nuanced understanding of the demarcation between fields. Our individual versions of Fig. 1 will depend on our perspective. Our individual versions, however, should be correlated.

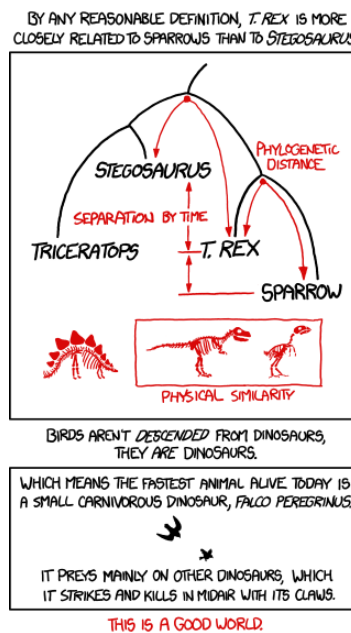


Figure 2: Phylogenetic distance quantifies the evolutionary relationship between species ... *even dinosaurs!* (Credit: xkcd.com).

References

- [1] Jimmy A. McGuire, Christopher C. Witt, J.V. Remsen, Ammon Corl, Daniel L. Rabosky, Douglas L. Altshuler, and Robert Dudley. Molecular Phylogenetics and the Diversification of Hummingbirds. *Current Biology*, 24(8):910–916, 2014.