

This data set contains the folk classifications of animals studied by Holman (2002). It is intended to be a complete collection of the folk classifications of animals published through 1999 that list folk generics and specifics, as defined by Berlin (1992), along with the corresponding scientific species.

The data set has two parts. The first part is a scientific classification of families into orders, classes, and phyla. The second part is a set of seven folk classifications matched to scientific classifications up to the rank of family. Together the two parts can be used to match folk and scientific classifications completely.

The classification of families into higher taxa is taken from Parker (1982). The list contains all the families of invertebrates cited in any of the folk classifications, and all the families of vertebrates listed by Parker or cited in any of the folk classifications.

Columns 1-20 give the family name. The conventional ending -idae is omitted from families with that ending; other abbreviations are spelled exactly as in the original publications. The same family name may be repeated more than once with different abbreviations or synonymous names, if these are used in different publications of folk classifications.

Columns 21-40 give the order name, abbreviated by omitting the conventional ending -iformes for birds and fishes. Columns 41-52 give the class name. Columns 53-60 give the phylum name. A name is not repeated if it is the same as in the previous line; in other words, a blank is equivalent to a ditto.

Columns 63-66 give the page reference for the family in Parker (1982); in Column 67, blank indicates Volume 1 and prime indicates Volume 2. Page references are included for invertebrates only, because all the families in Parker are listed here for vertebrates.

The second part contains the seven folk classifications. Each classification is preceded by a blank line, and then a title line that includes a citation to the reference list below. The same format is followed for all classifications. A taxonomic group at any rank in the hierarchy is called a taxon. Folk classifications are generally published as hierarchical lists of folk taxa; after each folk taxon at the bottom of the hierarchy are listed the scientific species that intersect the folk taxon. The present data are arranged the same way except that the folk taxa are coded numerically by taxonomic rank rather than listed by name. Four ranks, defined by Berlin (1992), are coded, from lowest to highest: specific-1, generic-2, intermediate-3, life form-4.

Column 2 gives the number representing the rank of the highest-ranking folk taxon (if any) that begins on that line. In particular, the possible entries in the column are interpreted as follows:

Blank means that the line refers to the same specific as the previous line.

1 means that the line begins a new specific within the same generic as the previous line.

2 means that the line begins a new generic within the same intermediate as the previous line.

3 means that the line begins a new intermediate within the same life form as the previous line.

4 means that the line begins a new life form.

5 means the end of the classification.

Thus, the numbers in Column 2 indicate boundaries between folk taxa of the corresponding ranks. Although the names of the folk taxa themselves are not given, the folk taxa are listed in the same order as in the original publication.

All the classifications as published identify specifics and generics, with the former always nested within the latter. The same uniformity does not extend to intermediates and life forms, however. Most classifications do not identify intermediates, and some do not identify life forms either; the corresponding numbers are absent from the data in these cases. Some classifications contain unaffiliated generics (or intermediates) that are not consistently assigned to any higher taxon such as an intermediate or a life form; such unaffiliated taxa are here represented as separate higher taxa with only themselves as members.

Some classifications subdivide a few specifics into still lower taxa such as varietals; such distinctions are ignored here. Also, a few classifications contain additional taxa at levels between the ranks indicated in Column 2. These taxa are indicated in Column 3 according to the same conventions as in Column 2, except that the levels are unnamed and not expected to be comparable across classifications or even across branches of the same classification. In these cases, the entire taxonomic hierarchy can be inferred by reading Columns 2-3 as a single two-digit number, with blank in Column 3 interpreted as 0.

The bulk of each line is devoted to the scientific name of each species. Scientific names are given exactly as published, except that obvious misprints are corrected. No attempt is made to resolve synonymies across publications. Questioned scientific names are accepted.

Columns 6-25 give the genus name. Blank means that the genus is the same as in the previous line. X in Column 6 means that the genus is unidentified.

Columns 26-45 give the species (trivial) name. Blank means that the species is the same as in the previous line. X in Column 26 means that the species is unidentified.

Columns 46-65 give the family name, abbreviated as previously described. Blank means that the family is the same as in the previous line. In cases where the original publication identifies a species or genus but not the family, the latter is inferred from the following sources: Howard and Moore (1991) for birds, Wilson and Reeder (1993) for mammals, Frost (1985) for amphibians, Eschmeyer (1998) for fishes, Bruss, Melander, and Carpenter (1954) for insects, and Parker (1982) and various local faunas for other groups. X in Column 46 means that the family is unidentified. If the family is not identified but the order is, the order name is given in Columns 50-65, abbreviated as previously described. If the order is not identified but the class is, the class name is given in Columns 54-65. If the class is not identified but the phylum is, the phylum name is given in Columns 58-65.

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