

The Impending Elimination of Yaws

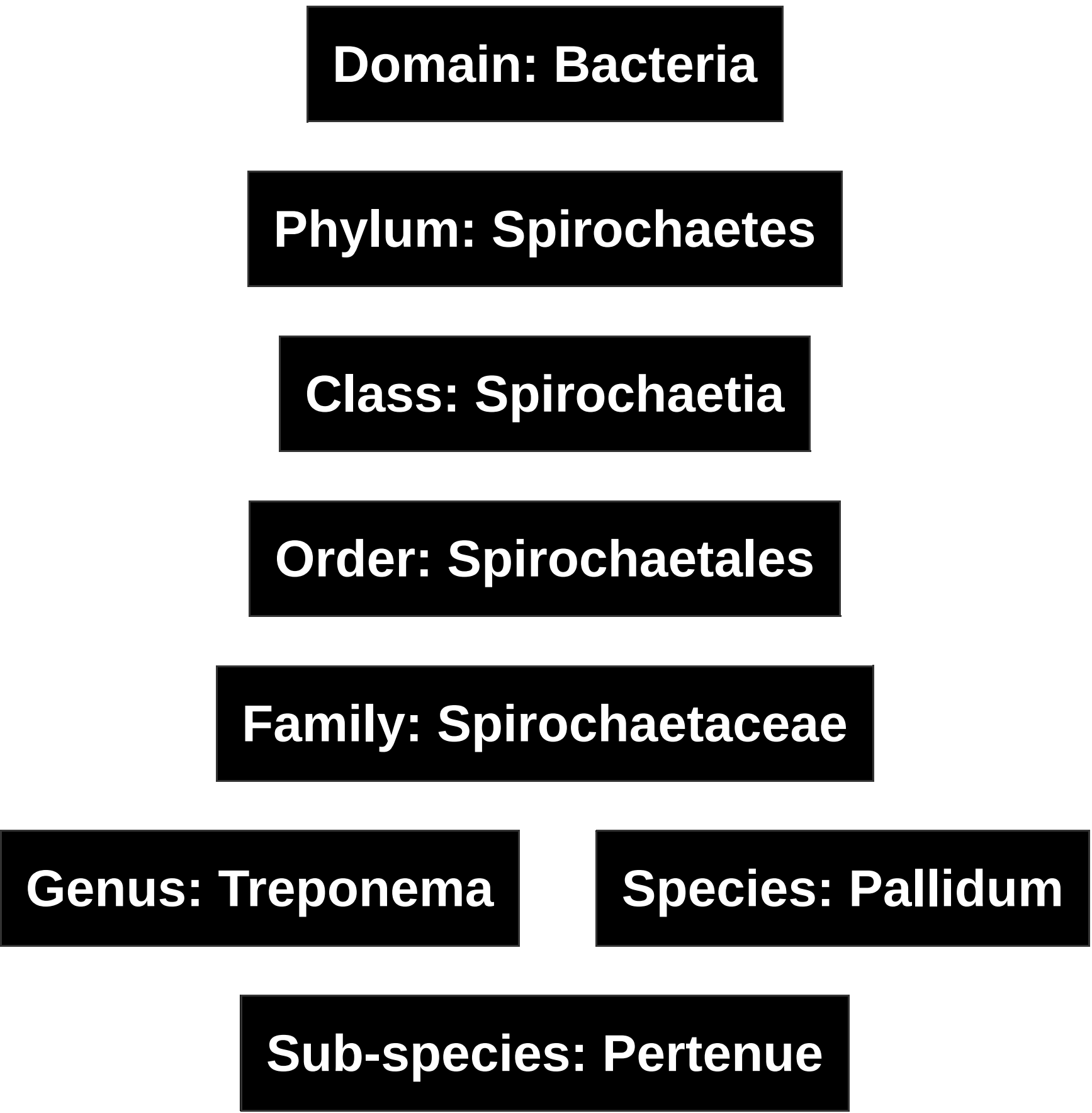
Treponema pallidum pertenue

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Abstract:

Yaws is a human disease found predominantly in tropical regions among children. The causative agent of Yaws, *Treponema pallidum pertenue*, is a spirochete bacteria closely related to syphilis - in fact, it is classified as the same species. Notably, unlike syphilis (a STD) Yaws is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. The symptoms of Yaws are also not as severe as those of syphilis and include: the appearance of papillomatous lesions, arthralgia, malaise, and bone degradation. Of particular note, Yaws is easily treatable using a single dosage of antibiotic. As such, Yaws is actually rather close to being eliminated, putting it on the short list which includes only smallpox. The WHO estimates that the pathogen will no longer trouble mankind after 2020.

Taxonomy:



Pathology:

Three Major Stages of Infection^{Mitja 2013}:

First Stage:

- Mother Yaw or Lesion appears at site of exposure, grows with time
- Commonly found on the legs and ankles
- Incubation period ranges from 10-90 days

Second Stage:

- After 3 weeks to 2 years, secondary lesions appear
- Joint pain and malaise are common
- Palms and soles may fissure making walking difficult

Third Stage:

- Develops after >5 years of untreated infection
- Destruction of skin and bone