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Plant Systemics Topic Summary

I found very interesting, and something I did not know, that plant identification is one of the oldest fields of science. The first humans had the need to know which plants were safe to plant and eat so they would had to have a way of classifying and transmitting this knowledge to other generations. It is my assumption that this plant classification evolved in its own way in different regions of the world as there exists many different edible and poisonous plants all over the world. The first records of plant classification are from Theophrastus (Greece), who is considered the father of botany. In more recent times (1700’s), Linnaeus came up with his binomial naming system

Plant classification is not only beneficial for agriculture, but also for the medical, economy fields. On the medical field, some plants are used to help treat diseases, on the economy fields, some plants produce beautiful flowers and there is an enormous market for flowers: selling flowers, gardening, decoration, etc.

Having knowledge of plants can help save lives, either by using a specific plant or by avoiding them at all. I saw a movie some time ago called ‘Into the wild’, which is based on a true story, where this person ventures into the Alaskan wilderness and spent some months there, all by himself. He carries with him a book that describes and classifies plant. He ends up mistaking a plant and eats a poisonous plant instead. I wont spoil the ending of them movie, in case you have not seen it, but it’s not good for him.