

Table 1a: Number of species evaluated in relation to the overall number of described species, and numbers of threatened species by major groups of organisms.

	Estimated Number of described species ¹	Number of species evaluated by 2025 (IUCN Red List version 2025-2)	% of described species evaluated by 2025 (IUCN Red List version 2025-2)	Number of threatened species ² by 2025 (IUCN Red List version 2025-2)	Estimated % threatened species in 2025 (IUCN Red List version 2025-2) ^{2,3,4}		
					Lower estimate (threatened spp. as % of extant evaluated species)	Best estimate (threatened spp. as % of extant data sufficient evaluated species)	Upper estimate (threatened and DD spp. as % of extant evaluated species)
VERTEBRATES							
Mammals ⁵	6,819	6,036	89%	1,364	23%	26%	36%
Birds	11,185	11,185	100%	1,256	11%	11%	12%
Reptiles	12,502	10,368	83%	1,859	18%	21%	33%
Amphibians	8,918	8,051	90%	2,930	37%	41%	48%
Fishes	37,288	29,114	78%	4,085	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Subtotal	76,712	64,754	84%	11,494	18%	21%	31%
INVERTEBRATES							
Insects	1,003,469	13,696	1.4%	2,680	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Molluscs	88,244	9,502	11%	2,616	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Crustaceans ⁶	83,263	3,361	4%	774	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Corals	5,672	916	16%	333	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Arachnids	97,085	1,053	1.08%	390	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Velvet Worms	220	11	5%	9	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Horseshoe Crabs	4	4	100%	2	50%	100%	100%
Others	230,485	1,139	0.49%	183	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Subtotal	1,508,442	29,682	2%	6,987			
PLANTS⁷							
Mosses ⁸	21,925	327	1.5%	181	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Ferns and Allies ⁹	11,800	834	7%	327	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Gymnosperms	1,113	1,062	95%	453	43%	43%	44%
Flowering Plants	369,000	74,545	20%	28,778	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Green Algae ¹⁰	14,550	18	0.1%	0	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Red Algae ¹⁰	7,744	78	1.0%	9	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Subtotal	426,132	76,864	18%	29,748			
FUNGI & PROTISTS¹¹							
Mushrooms, etc.	157,648	1,302	0.8%	411	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Brown Algae ¹⁰	5,005	18	0.4%	6	<i>Insufficient coverage</i>		
Subtotal	162,653	1,320	0.8%	417			
TOTAL	2,173,939	172,620	8%	48,646			

NOTES:

- The numbers of described species in Table 1a should be used with caution as these are not always be up to date for all taxonomic groups. The sources used for the figures currently shown in the table are listed below.
- Threatened species are those listed as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) or Vulnerable (VU).
- Where <80% of species within a group have been evaluated, figures for % threatened species are not provided because there is insufficient coverage for these groups. It is only possible to provide reliable figures for % threatened species for those groups that are completely or almost completely evaluated (e.g., mammals, birds, amphibians and gymnosperms).
- The percentage of threatened species can be calculated for those groups that are completely or almost completely evaluated (>80% of species evaluated), but the actual number of threatened species is often uncertain because it is not known whether Data Deficient (DD) species are actually threatened or not. Therefore, a range of percentages is provided: **lower estimate** = % threatened extant species (if all DD species are not threatened); **best estimate** = % threatened extant species (if DD species are equally threatened as data sufficient species); **upper estimate** = % threatened extant species (if all DD species are threatened). If a single figure is required for reporting purposes, the best estimate figure should be used.
- The number of described and evaluated mammals excludes domesticated species like sheep (*Ovis aries*), goats (*Capra hircus*), Dromedary (*Camelus dromedarius*), etc.
- Crustaceans include seven classes: Branchiopoda (fairy shrimp, clam shrimp, etc.); Cephalocarida (horseshoe shrimp); Malacostraca (crabs, lobsters, shrimp, woodlice, etc.); Maxillopoda (barnacles, copepods, etc.); Ostracoda (seed shrimp); Remipedia (remipedes); and Tentilocardia (parasitic crustaceans); and the subclass Mystacocarida (mystacocarids).
- The plant numbers DO NOT include species from the 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants (Walter and Gillett 1998) as those assessments used the pre-1994 IUCN system of threat categories. Hence the numbers of threatened plants in Table 1b are much lower when compared to the 1997 results. When reporting on threatened plants, the results from the current web version of The IUCN Red List should be combined with the 1997 Plants Red List. Since there have been many taxonomic changes for plant species since 1997, careful comparison of the current and 1997 species lists will be needed when combining these results to avoid double-counting.
- Mosses include the true mosses (Bryophyta), the hornworts (Anthocerotophyta), and liverworts (Marchantiophyta).
- The ferns and allies include club mosses and spike mosses (Lycopodiopsida), quillworts (Isoetopsida), horsetails (Equisetopsida) and ferns (Marattiopsida, Polypodiopsida and Psilotopsida).
- Seaweeds are included in the green algae (Chlorophyta, Charophyta), red algae (Rhodophyta), and brown algae (Ochrophytina).
- Many of the described species in these groups are not eligible for assessment on the IUCN Red List as they are considered micro-organisms.

Sources for Numbers of Described Species:

Vertebrates

Mammals – Mammal Diversity Database. 2025. v2.3, released 1 Sep 2025. www.mammaldiversity.org. American Society of Mammalogists. Accessed 15 September 2025.

Birds – Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International. 2025. Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world. Version 9.1. Available at: <https://datazone.birdlife.org/about-our-science/taxonomy>. Accessed 10 October 2025.

Reptiles – Based on the figures (as of September 2025) provided by The Reptile Database compiled by Peter Uetz and Jirí Hošek. Available at: <http://www.reptile-database.org>. Accessed: 15 September 2025. For current total number of species on this website, see <http://www.reptile-database.org/db-info/SpeciesStat.html>.

Amphibians – Frost, D.R. 2025. Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference. Version 6.2 (Accessed 15 September 2025). Electronic Database accessible at: <https://amphibiansoftheworld.amnh.org/index.php>. American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA. doi.org/10.5531/db.vz.0001.

Fishes – Based on Frick, R. Eschmeyer, W.N. and Van der Lan, R. (eds). 2025. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references (<http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>). Electronic version accessed: 11 September 2025.

Invertebrates

Insects – Bánki, O., Roskov, Y., Döring, M., Ower, G., Hernández Robles, D.R., Plata Corredor, C.A., Stjernegaard Jeppesen, T., Örn, A., Pape, T., Hobern, D., Garnett, S., Little, H., DeWalt, R.E., Ma, K., Miller, J., Orrell, T., Aalbu, R., Abbott, J., Adlard, R., et al. (2025). Catalogue of Life (Version 2025-02-13). Catalogue of Life, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.48580/dgnfb>. Accessed 24 September 2025.

Molluscs – MolluscaBase (2025). MolluscaBase. Available at <http://www.molluscabase.org>. Accessed: 24 September 2025.

Crustaceans – Bánki, O., Roskov, Y., Döring, M., Ower, G., Hernández Robles, D.R., Plata Corredor, C.A., Stjernegaard Jeppesen, T., Örn, A., Pape, T., Hobern, D., Garnett, S., Little, H., DeWalt, R.E., Ma, K., Miller, J., Orrell, T., Aalbu, R., Abbott, J., Adlard, R., et al. (2025). Catalogue of Life (Version 2025-02-13). Catalogue of Life, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.48580/dgnfb>. Accessed 24 September 2025; Brandão, S.N., Antonietto, L.S., Nery, D.G., Pereira, J.S., Praxedes, R.A., Santos, S.G. and Karanovic, I. (2025). World Ostracoda Database. Accessed at <https://www.marinespecies.org/ostracoda> on 2025-09-24. doi:10.14284/364

Corals – Corals fall under the phylum Cnidaria and include class Octocorallia, and orders Antipatharia, Corallimorpharia and Scleractinia. The number of described living species reported here are from WoRMS Editorial Board (2025). World Register of Marine Species. Available from <https://www.marinespecies.org> at VLIZ. Accessed 2025-09-24. doi:10.14284/170

Arachnids (spiders, scorpions, etc) – Bánki, O., Roskov, Y., Döring, M., Ower, G., Hernández Robles, D.R., Plata Corredor, C.A., Stjernegaard Jeppesen, T., Örn, A., Pape, T., Hobern, D., Garnett, S., Little, H., DeWalt, R.E., Ma, K., Miller, J., Orrell, T., Aalbu, R., Abbott, J., Adlard, R., et al. (2025). Catalogue of Life (Version 2025-02-13). Catalogue of Life, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.48580/dgnfb>. Accessed 24 September 2025.

Velvet Worms (Udeonychophora) — Oliveira, I.S., Hering, L. and Mayer, G. (2006-2025). The Onychophora Website. Digital resource at <http://www.onychophora.com/index.htm>. Accessed 24 September 2025. For number of described species see <http://www.onychophora.com/list.htm>.

Horseshoe Crabs (Merostomata) — Class Merostomata excludes the fossil sea scorpions; only four species are extant today: Boxshall G.A. (2019). WoRMS Merostomata: World List of Merostomata (version 2019-03-05). In: Species 2000 & ITIS Catalogue of Life, 2019 Annual Checklist (Roskov Y., Ower G., Orrell T., Nicolson D., Bailly N., Kirk P.M., Bourgoin T., DeWalt R.E., Decock W., Nieuwkerken E. van, Zarucchi J., Penev L., eds.). Digital resource at www.catalogueoflife.org/annual-checklist/2019. Species 2000: Naturalis, Leiden, the Netherlands. ISSN 2405-884X. Accessed: 24 September 2025.

Others – "Others" includes all non-vertebrate groups listed in Catalog of Life that are not included in the groups listed above. Bánki, O., Roskov, Y., Döring, M., Ower, G., Hernández Robles, D.R., Plata Corredor, C.A., Stjernegaard Jeppesen, T., Örn, A., Pape, T., Hobern, D., Garnett, S., Little, H., DeWalt, R.E., Ma, K., Miller, J., Orrell, T., Aalbu, R., Abbott, J., Adlard, R., et al. (2025). Catalogue of Life (Version 2025-02-13). Catalogue of Life, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.48580/dgnfb>. Accessed 04 March 2025.

Plants

Mosses – Christenhusz, M.J.M. and Byng, J.W. 2016. The number of known plant species in the world and its annual increase. Phytotaxa. 261(3): 201-217. <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.261.3.1>

Ferns and allies – State of the World's Plants 2017: https://stateoftheworldsplants.org/2017/report/SOTWP_2017.pdf

Gymnosperms – Christenhusz, M.J.M. et al. (2011). A new classification and linear sequence of extant gymnosperms. Phytotaxa. 19: 55–70 (cited in State of the World's Plants 2017: https://stateoftheworldsplants.org/2017/report/SOTWP_2017.pdf).

Flowering Plants (Magnoliophyta = Magnoliopsida+Liliopsida) – State of the World's Plants 2017: https://stateoftheworldsplants.org/2017/report/SOTWP_2017.pdf.

Fungi & Protists

Mushrooms, lichens, brackets, rusts, smuts, jelly fungi, etc. - all species within kingdom Fungi. Kirk, P. M. (2024). Species Fungorum Plus (version Apr 2024). In O. Bánki, Y. Roskov, M. Döring, G. Ower, D.R. Hernández Robles, C.A. Plata Corredor, T. Stjernegaard Jeppesen, A. Örn, L. Vandepitte, T. Pape, D. Hobern, S. Garnett, H. Little, R. E. DeWalt, K. Ma, J. Miller, T. Orrell, R. Aalbu, J. Abbott, et al., Catalogue of Life (Version 2025-02-13). Catalogue of Life, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.48580/dg9ld-4hj>. Accessed: 24 September 2025.

Green (Charophyta, Chlorophyta), Red (Rhodophyta) and Brown (Ochrophytina) Algae – From Guiry, M.D. and Guiry, G.M. 2025. AlgaeBase. World-wide electronic publication, National University of Ireland, Galway. <http://www.algaebase.org>. Accessed on 24 September 2025. For taxonomy search, see <https://www.algaebase.org/browse/taxonomy/>