



# TAXANOMIC GROUPINGS

## **A. SPECIES GROUP NAMING:**

\*The species scientific name consists of a generic name and a specific epithet.

**1). The specific epithet must be in accord with the gender of the genus,  
ie. endings must be the same.**

However, there are **3 types**; (where gender matches)

- Thus, it is *Chenopodium*album (not *alba* or *albus*),
- *Hirschfeldia*incana (not *incanum* or *incanus*),
- and *Caulanthus*heterophyllus (not *heterophylla* or *heterophyllum*).

**2) There are also specific names for which the masculine and feminine forms are the same, but the neuter form is different,**

- Thus masculine and feminine *acaulis*is and neuter *acaule*e,
- and masculine and feminine *campestris*is and neuter *campestre*e.

**3) There are specific names for which the form is the same for all three genders, such as (*Lupinus bicolor*) and (*Trifolium repens*).**

- The name (s) of the author (s) of a scientific name form an official part of the name under ICBN. E.g. *Eragrostis acraea* Linneaus.

- However, in ICZN, **the authors name does not form an official part.**

- The **sub-species' scientific name** is made up three names; generic name, specific epithet and a third term denoting the sub-species.
- There is a word between the specific epithet and the third term that indicates the rank of the species. E.g. *Andropogon ternatus* subsp. *macrothrix*, or
- *Herniaria hirsuta* var. *diandra*.

## B.     Generic Names

- The name of a genus is a noun in the nominative singular, or a word treated as such. ie. uni-nomial
- It is written with an initial capital letter.
- It may be taken from any source whatever, and may even be composed in **an absolutely arbitrary manner**,
- but must not end in ‘-*virus*’.
- A generic name cannot be composed of two words, ie. two - word genus names are **REJECTED** ( regarded as illegitimate name).

- However, if the two words are joined with a hyphen it is legitimate. Eg. *Sebastiano-schaueria*
- Names of sub-divisions of the same genus (i.e. subgenera), even if they differ in rank, are homonyms if they have the same epithet but are based on different types.
- The name of a subdivision of a genus consists of a generic name and a sub-divisional epithet connected by a term denoting its rank.

## C. FAMILY NAMES

### i) Family Group Names (ICBN)

- The name of a family is usually based on the name of the type genus.
- This can be done in two ways;
- **(a)** If latin; the genitive singular inflection (Latin *-ae*, *-i*, *-us*, *-is*; transliterated as **-aceae**.
- If Greek, *-ou*, *-os*, *-es*, *-as*, or *-ous*, including the latter's equivalent *-eos*) of a legitimate name of an included genus can be replaced by the suffice **–aceae**.



- (b) Secondly, the suffix, **-aceae** can be added to the full word when the generic name has no genitive singular inflection.
- Eg. 1 *Rosaceae* (from *Rosa*, *Rosae*),
- *Plumbaginaceae* (from *Plumbago*, *Plumbaginis*),
- *Rhodophyllaceae* (from *Rhodophyllus*, *Rhodophylli*)

- *Sclerodermataceae* (from *Scleroderma*, *Sclerodermatos*).
- The names of a **subfamily**, **tribe** and **subtribe** are formed in the same manner as the name of a family but with the endings **–oideae**, **-eae** and **–inae** respectively.
- Eg. The type of the family name *Poaceae* comes from genus *Poa* L.

- The subfamily and tribe which include *Poa* are to be called *Pooideae* Asch. and *Poeae* R. Br.
- The family *Asteraceae* (*Compositae*) includes *Aster* L.,
- the Subfamily name, is called *Asteroideae* Asch., and the tribe and subtribe including *Aster* are to be called *Astereae* Cass. and *Asterinae* Less., respectively.

## ii) Family names under ICZN

- A family name is formed by adding the suffix **–idae** to the stem of the name of the type genus, or to the entire name of the type genus.
- If a generic name is or ends in a Greek or Latin word, or ends in a Greek or Latin suffix, the stem is found by deleting the case ending of the appropriate genitive singular. Eg. *Coccinella* (genitive *Coccinellae*, stem *Coccinell-*) gives family name *Coccinellidae*.

- Similarly, *Culex* (genitive Culicis, stem Culic-) gives Culicidae,
- *Archaeopteryx* (genitive Archaeo-pterygis, stem Archaeopteryg-) gives Archaeopterygidae.
- The names of **superfamily**, **subfamily**, **tribe** and **subtribe** are formed in a similar manner by using the suffices **-oidea**, **-inae**, **-ini** and **-ina** respectively.

# Suffices for naming Ranks of names;

RANK	PLANT	ALGAE	FUNGI	ANIMALS
Division/Phylum	-phyta	-phyta	-mycota	
Subdivision/Phylum	-phytina	-phytina	-mycotina	
Class	-opsida	-phyceae	-mycete	
subclass	-idae	-phycidae	-mycetidae	
Super Order	-anae	-anae	-anae	
Order	-ales	-ales	-ales	

# continuation

RANK	PLANT	ALGAE	FUNGI	ANIMALS
Sub-order	-ineae	-ineae	-ineae	
Infra-order	-aria	-aria	-aria	
Super-family	-acea	-acea	-acea	-oidea
Family	-aceae	-aceae	-aceae	-idae
Sub-family	- oideae	-oideae	-oideae	-inae
Tribe	-eae	-eae	-eae	-ini
Sub-tribe	-inae	-inae	-inae	-ina