

CLASS XI BIOLOGY

LESSON 1 THE LIVING WORLD MODULE 1/1

HANDOUT

The living world is rich in variety. Millions of plants and animals have been identified and described but large number still remains unknown. The very range of organisms in terms of size, colour, habitat, physiological, and morphological features make us seek the defining characteristics of living organisms. In order to facilitate the study of kinds and diversity of organisms, biologists have evolved certain rules and principles for identification, nomenclature and classification of organisms. The branch of knowledge dealing with these aspects is referred to as taxonomy. The taxonomic studies of various species of plants and animals are useful in agriculture, forestry, industry and in general for knowing our bio-resources and their diversity. The basics of taxonomy like identification, naming and classification of organisms are universally evolved under international codes. Based on the resemblances and distinct differences, each organism is identified and assigned correct scientific/biological name comprising two words as per the binomial system of nomenclature. An organism represents/occupies place or position in the system of classification. There are many categories or ranks/ranks and are generally referred to as taxonomic categories or taxa. All the categories constitute a taxonomic hierarchy.
