

Branches of Science

Biology

- The study of life.
- Biology is concerned with the characteristics, classification, and behaviors of organisms, how species come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with the natural environment.

Paleontology

- **Paleontology** or **palaeontology** is the study of the history and development of life on Earth, including that of ancient plants and animals, based on the fossil record. This includes the study of body fossils, tracks, burrows, cast-off parts, fossilized feces and chemical residues.

Paleontology



Ecology

- **Ecology**, is the scientific study of the distribution and abundance of living organisms and how the distribution and abundance are affected by interactions between the organisms and their environment. The environment of an organism includes physical properties like sunlight, climate, and geology, as well as the other organisms that share its habitat.

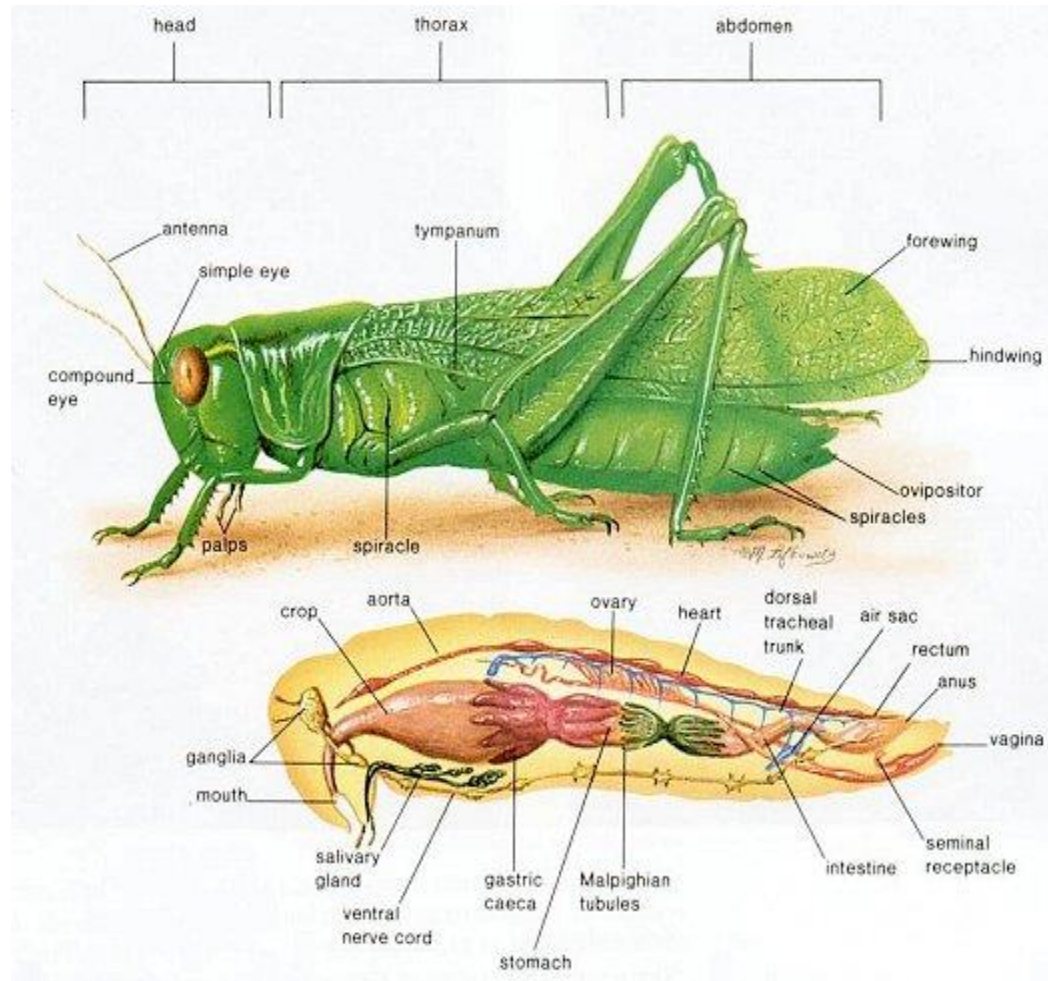
Ecology: The study of the household of nature



Entomology

- **Entomology** is the scientific study of insects. Insects have many kinds of interactions with humans and other forms of life on earth, so it is an important specialty within biology.

Entomology



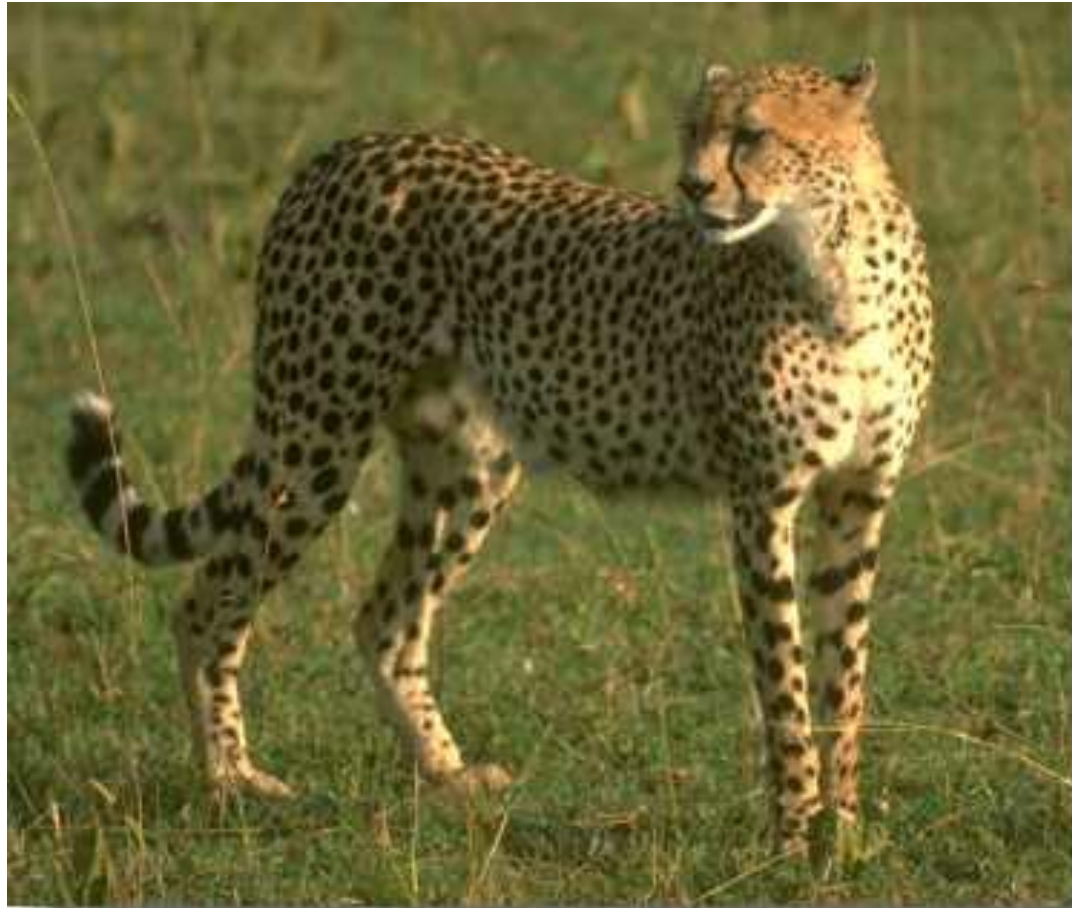
Mammalogy

- The study of mammals



Zoology

- **Zoology** is the biological discipline which involves the study of non-human animals.



Botany

- **Botany** is the scientific study of plantlife. Botany covers a wide range of scientific disciplines that study the structure, growth, reproduction, metabolism, development and diseases of plants. The study of plants and botany began with tribal lore, used to identify edible, medicinal and poisonous plants, making botany one of the oldest sciences.

Botany



Ichthyology

- **Ichthyology** is the branch of [zoology](#) devoted to the study of [fish](#). This includes skeletal fish ([Osteichthyes](#)), cartilaginous fish ([Chondrichthyes](#)), and jawless fish ([Agnatha](#)). An estimated 25,000 fish species exist, comprising a majority of vertebrates. While a majority of species have probably been discovered and described, approximately 250 new species are officially described by science each year.



Ornithology

- **Ornithology** is the branch of zoology concerned with the scientific study of birds. Several aspects of the study of ornithology differ from closely related disciplines, perhaps because of the high visibility and the aesthetic appeal of birds. Most marked among these is the extent of field studies undertaken by amateur volunteers working within the parameters of strict scientific methodology.

Ornithology



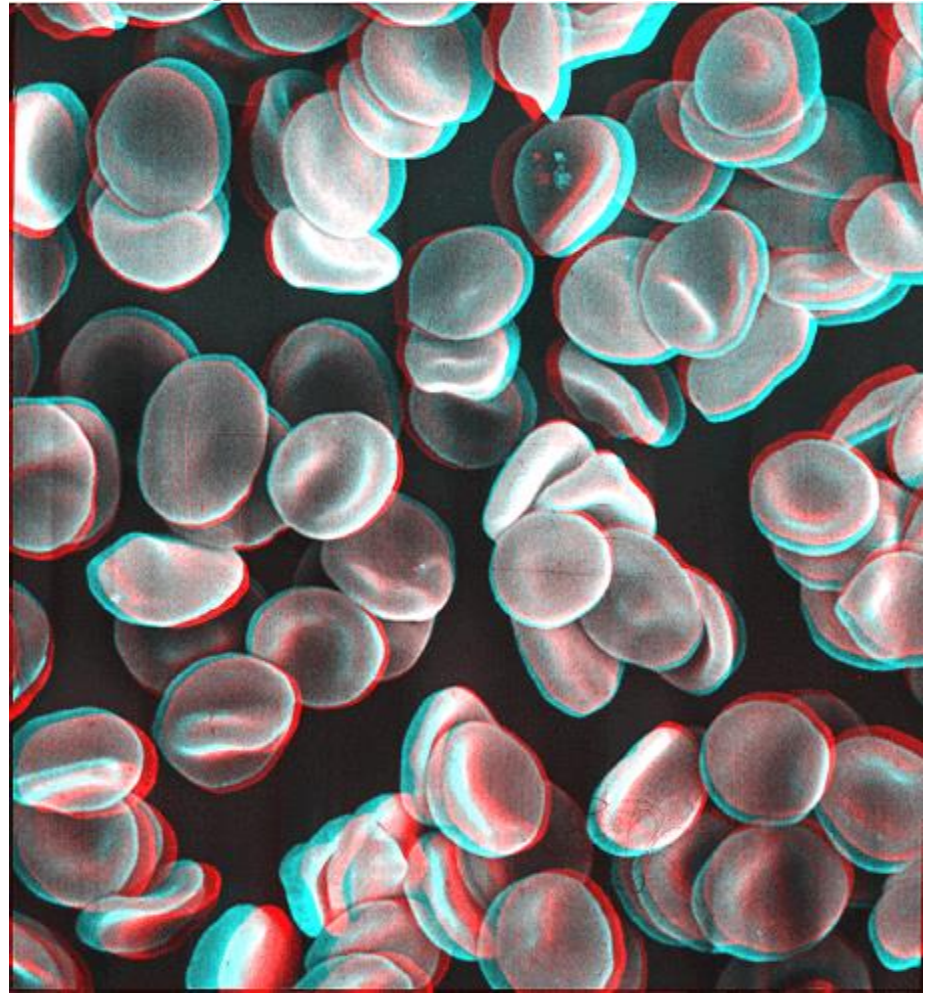
Herpetology

- The study of reptiles and amphibians



Cytology

- Includes both cell biology and cytopathology.



Cell Biology

- **Cell biology** is an academic discipline that studies cells. This includes their physiological properties, their structure, the organelles they contain, interactions with their environment, their life cycle, division and death. Cell biology research extends to both the great diversity of single-celled organisms like bacteria and the many specialized cells in multicellular organisms like humans.

Cytopathology

- **Cytopathology** is a branch of [pathology](#) that studies and diagnoses diseases on the cellular level. The most common use of cytopathology is the [Pap smear](#), used to detect cervical cancer at an early treatable stage.

Genetics

- Genetics is the science of genes, heredity, and the variation of organisms.
- Within organisms, genetic information generally is carried in chromosomes, where it is represented in the chemical structure of particular DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) molecules.

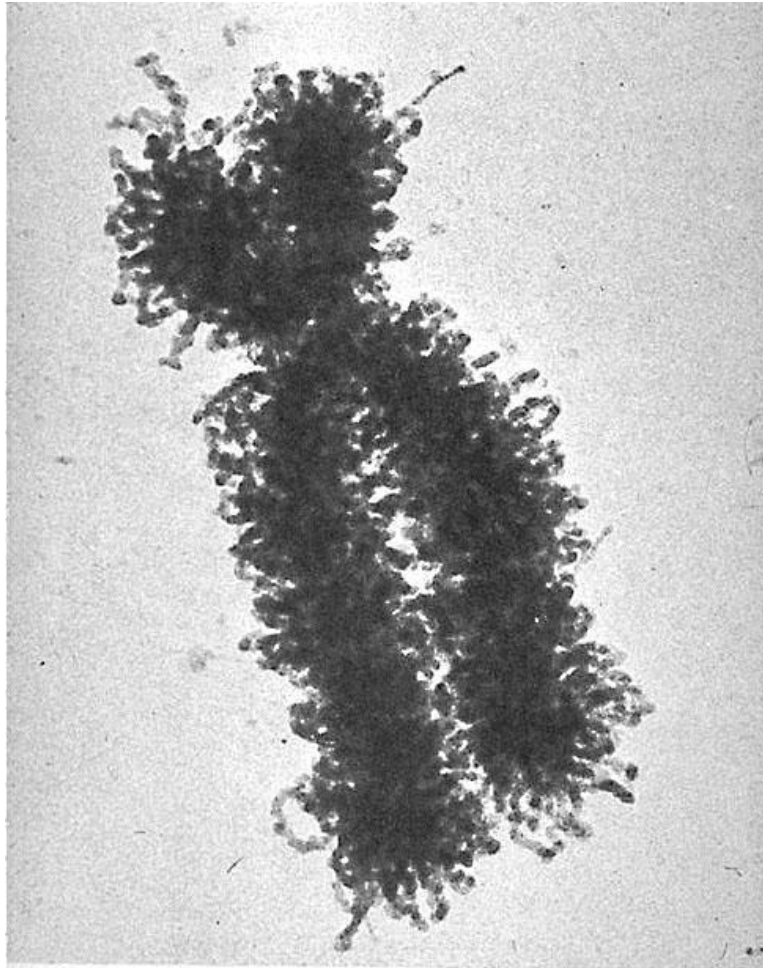


FIGURE 1-14
An electron micrograph of a human chromosome.
Chromosome XII from a HeLa cell culture. (Courtesy
of Dr. E. Du Praw.)

Histology

- **Histology** is the study of tissue sectioned as a thin slice. It can be described as microscopic anatomy.
- Used to diagnose cancer and other diseases.

Histology (Picture – muscle tissue)



Chemistry

- **Chemistry** is the science of matter at the atomic to molecular scale, dealing primarily with collections of atoms, such as gases, molecules, crystals, and metals.

Chemistry



Marine Biology

- **Marine biology** is the scientific study of the [plants](#), [animals](#) and other organisms that live in the [ocean](#).
- Marine life represents a vast resource, providing [food](#), [medicine](#), and raw materials, in addition to helping to support [recreation](#) and [tourism](#) all over the world. At a fundamental level, marine life helps determine the very nature of our planet. Marine organisms produce much of the [oxygen](#) we breathe and probably help regulate the earth's [climate](#). [Shorelines](#) are in part shaped and protected by marine life, and some marine organisms even help create new land.

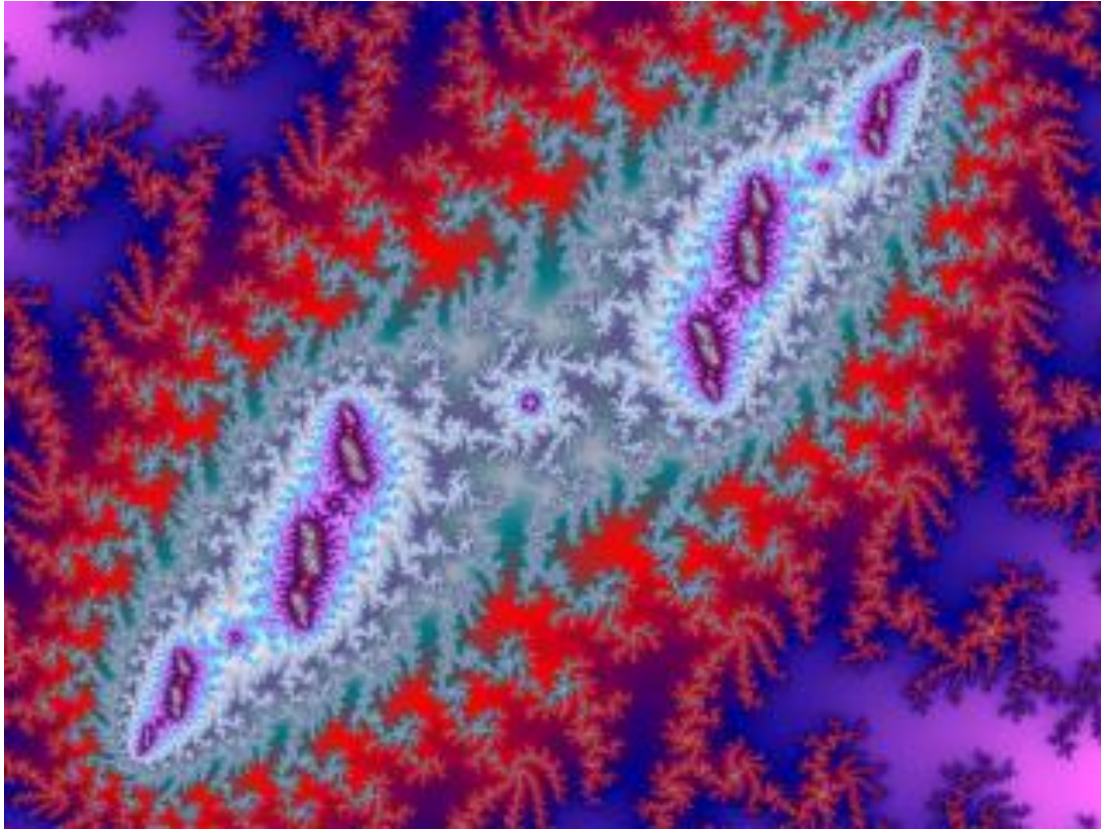
Marine Biology



Microbiology

- **Microbiology** is the study of microorganisms, which are unicellular or cell-cluster microscopic organisms. This includes eukaryotes such as fungi and protists, and prokaryotes such as bacteria and certain algae. Viruses, though not strictly classed as living organisms, are also studied.

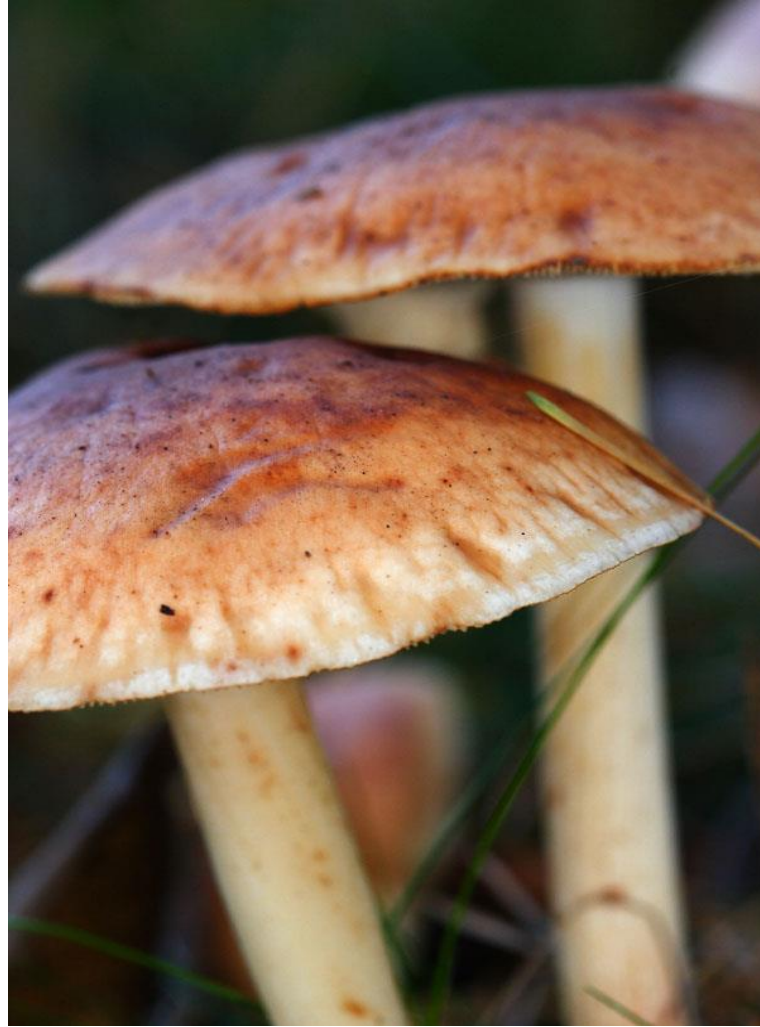
Microbiology



Mycology

- **Mycology** is the study of fungi, their genetic and biochemical properties, their taxonomy, and their use to humans as a source for medicinals (see penicillin) and food (beer, wine, cheese, edible mushrooms), as well as their dangers, such as poisoning or infection.

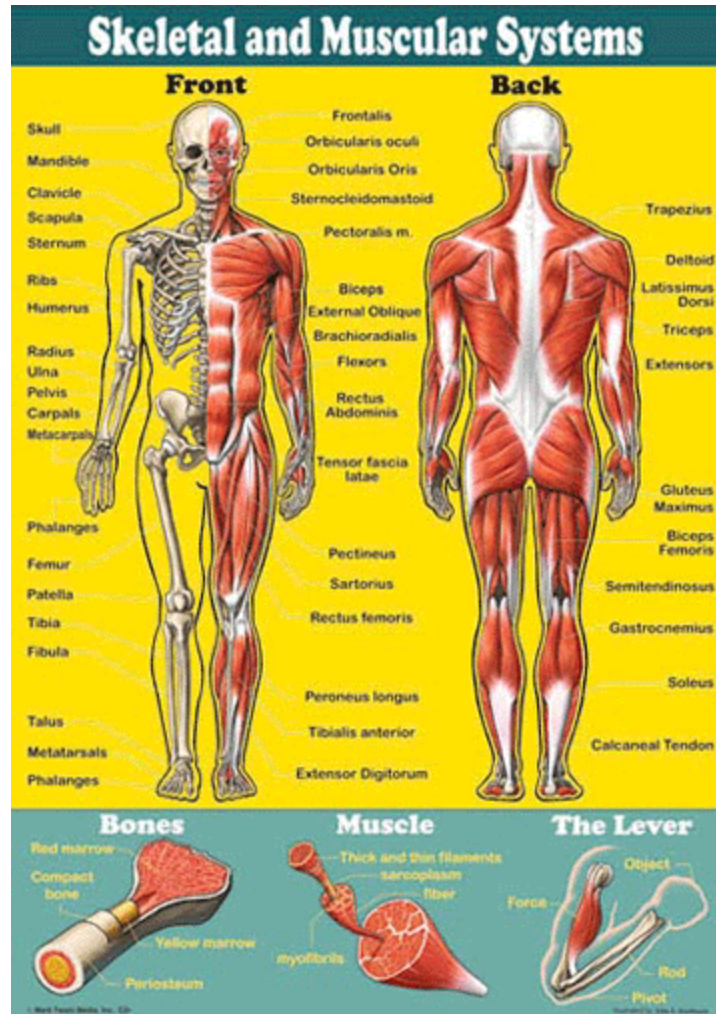
Mycology



Anatomy

- **Anatomy** is the branch of biology that deals with the structure and organization of living things.

Anatomy



Physiology

- **Physiology** is the study of the mechanical, physical, and biochemical functions of living organisms.

Pathology

- Study of disease