

- Phylocode: recent approach in aligning Linnaean classification with phylogeny in which only names groups that include a common ancestor and all of its descendants
- phylogenetic tree represents a **hypothesis about evolutionary relationships**
 - o these relationships are often depicted as a series of dichotomies, or two way branch points
 - o each branch point represents divergence of two evolutionary lineages from a common ancestor
- **sister taxa**: groups of organisms that share an immediate common ancestor and hence are each other's closest relatives
- rooted: means that a branch point within the tree represents the last common ancestor of all taxa in the tree
- **polytomy**: a branch point from which more than two descendant groups emerge
 - o indicates the evolutionary relationships among the descendants taxa are not yet clear

