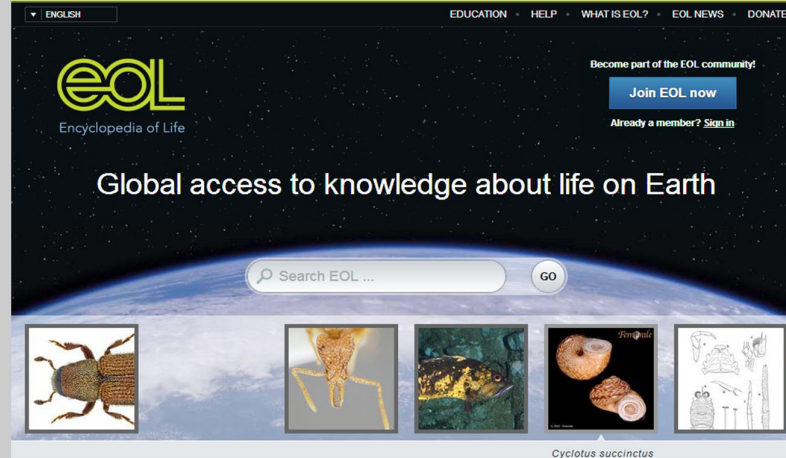


Home Page



Logo



URL

<http://eol.org/>

Subject

Life (Biology) - Encyclopedias

Accessibility

Free

Language

Multilingual (English, Spanish, French, Italian etc.)

Publisher

The Encyclopedia of Life is created by the following institutions: Field Museum, Harvard University, MacArthur Foundation, Marine, Biological Laboratory, Missouri Botanical Garden, Sloan Foundation and Smithsonian Institution.

Brief History

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) began in 2007 with the bold idea to provide "a webpage for every species." EOL brings together trusted information from resources across the world such as museums, learned societies, expert scientists, and others into one massive database and a single, easy-to-use online portal at EOL.org. While the idea to create an online species database had existed prior to 2007, Dr. Edward O. Wilson's 2007 TED Prize speech was the catalyst for the EOL one sees

today. The site went live in February 2008 to international media attention.

The initiative was started with generous seed funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur and Alfred P. Sloan Foundations. The five original EOL cornerstone institutions included the Field Museum, Harvard University, the Marine Biological Laboratory, Missouri Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian Institution.

Today, the Encyclopedia of Life is expanding to become a global community of collaborators and contributors serving the general public, enthusiastic amateurs, educators, students and professional scientists from around the world. It is sustained through the contributions of its supporting institutions and individual donors around the world, as well as through collaborations on a broad portfolio of grants.

Scope and Coverage

The encyclopedia covers information and pictures of all following mentioned species known to science:

Animals, Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, Fishes, Invertebrates, Crustaceans, Mollusks, Insects, Spiders, Worms, Plants, Flowering Plants, Trees, Fungi, Mushrooms, Molds, Bacteria, Algae, Protists, Archaea, Viruses.

Under each main category of species there are links under the headings “Featured EOL Pages”, “Featured Collections”, “Featured Podcasts”, “Featured Media” where the subcategories of that main category are arranged in many ways according to taxonomic classification.

As for example under the main entry “Animals” there is a link “Featured EOL Pages” under which following sub categories are found:

Animalia Page
African Bush Elephant
Bald Eagle
Blue Whale
European Honey Bee
Nematodes
Moon Jelly

This encyclopedia includes 1, 32,056 pages, 87, 195 members, 9, 724 collections, 257 Communities, 3, 300, 361 images, 335 Content Partners, 10, 765, 720 Data. This encyclopedia covers 18 languages like English, Spanish, French, Italian, German etc.)

Kind of Information

Human knowledge of the many life-forms on the earth of animals, plants, fungi, protists and bacteria is scattered around the world in books, journals, databases, websites, specimen collections, and in the minds of people. This encyclopedia gathers all of this information

together and made available for the users in one site. Under each main category of species following kind of information are available:

Article on that main categories of species are found along with references, the address where from the article is adapted, license, citation, color pictures. Translations of that article in other languages are also found. Article source with author is also incorporated.

Featured EOL Pages on a main category include information about various other species related to that species of main category. Under each species the entry includes overview of information, detailed information, various types of data, media on that species, maps related to the places where the species found most, names related to that species which are found in various taxonomical lists, communities of EOL members who come together to share their interests and expertise, links to external resources related to that species, literature references, updates related to the newsfeed and page statistics on that species. The entry on that sub species contains the classified list of taxonomic terms on that species.

Take for an example African Bush Elephant, which is a sub category of the main category Animals. This species is found as a page under Featured EOL Pages of the category Animals. The entry of the African Bush Elephant is embellished with a coloured picture, its physical measurement, its scientific name (i.e. *Loxodonta Africana*), brief summary, comprehensive description, habitat, behavior, life span, conservation (with conservation trend, status, threats and management of this species), benefits, biomedical terms on it, 704 numbered media on the species, 5 maps locating its habitat, references of literature on this species and much more.

Under another sub category “European Honey Bee”, like the previous entry, there is also a classified hierarchical tree of terms which includes the scientific names of various narrower species. The list also includes the broader areas of European Honey Bee (scientific name is *Apis mellifera*). The hierarchical list of terms is shown below at a glance:



There is also a Featured Collection on a species which includes all the images, videos sometimes includes related taxonomic terms of that

species. For example, the species “Spiders” includes a Featured Collection with 57 taxa and 9 images of spiders.

Special Features

- ❖ The encyclopedia provides a huge amount of images, videos, audios; maps related to each species and provide a “webpage for every species”.
- ❖ It provides print options for its articles.
- ❖ The encyclopedia provides its pages on other social media like Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, You Tube, Pinterest, Vemio.com, Google plus etc.
- ❖ Featured podcasts of every species are provided here. As for example the species insect includes podcasts related to parasitic wasps, monarchs, national moth week, beetles and moths, ants, insects of Costa Rica, Ugandan butterflies.
- ❖ The encyclopedia includes featured media audio and video related to a species, like the species insect includes beetle media, butterfly and moth media, cool bug videos, stick insect media.
- ❖ It provides information about the project related to a particular species under the Citizen Science projects heading found under each main entry. As for example the species insect includes science projects like Butterfly Conservation Europe, Butterfly India, Firefly Watch, Journey North, Lost Ladybug Project, PollinatorLIVE, School of Ants.
- ❖ Featured providers of the information related to a species are also included. Like under the category Insect there are links to several information providers named Bee Diversity LifeDesk, Flower Flies LifeDesk, Leptogastrinae LifeDesk, Odonata LifeDesk, Scarabaeinae Life Desk.
- ❖ Featured links are included under the each main category. Like the species Insect includes the links Butterflies of Tucson Field Guide and EOL Education Tools and Applications.
- ❖ Translation facility of an entry is also provided.
- ❖ Provision for adding new information to the collection is available.
- ❖ Within the content page of a species (under the Featured EOL Pages) sometimes the encyclopedia gives link to Wikipedia to

give more information on that species.

- ❖ In the home page of EOL there are links related to EOL News and Community Activities.
- ❖ There is a EOL blog for sharing information.

Arrangement Pattern The Encyclopedia of Life contains some broader categories like Animals, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Invertebrates etc. under which information regarding various species and sub species are found. Within a category, a species may found in the Featured EOL Pages and Featured Collection portions and within a specific entry of the EOL Pages the hierarchical classification of the species is found. The scientific name of each species along with their sub and super species are arranged alphabetically in the classified trees. Example is given in the **Kind of Information** section.

Remarks Human knowledge of the many life-forms on Earth - of animals, plants, fungi, protists and bacteria is scattered around the world in books, journals, databases, websites, specimen collections, and in the minds of people. It would be a splendid thing to see if this information could be gathered together and made available to everyone – anywhere – at a moment's notice. Therein lies the beauty of this encyclopedia. The huge compass of this encyclopedia is really a great source of information for the biologists of the world. The Encyclopedia of Life aims to increase awareness and understanding of living nature by gathering, generating and sharing knowledge in an open, freely accessible and trusted digital resource.

Comparable Tools

- Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
- Britannica.com (<http://www.britannica.com/>)
- Encyclopedia.com (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/>)
- NatureServe Explorer: An Online Encyclopedia of Life. (<http://explorer.natureserve.org/>)
- A-Z Animals(<http://a-z-animals.com/>)
- Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>)
- Animal Facts Encyclopedia (<http://www.animalfactsencyclopedia.com/>)

➤ Essential for Life Science (
eLS)(<http://www.els.net/WileyCDA/>)

Date of Access

June 6, 2016