



**Field Guides:**

These books contain text and pictures describing a given group of organisms and are designed to be brought into the 'field' to help distinguish between similar species. Field guides on invasive plants, for example, aid resource managers to protect our environment.



**ID Cards:**

Identification cards are fact sheets with information, descriptions and illustrations on one particular species, like its distinctive markings, habitat preferences, distribution, etc.. ID cards help non-taxonomists to quickly identify certain organisms and are often used in education.

**Identification Aids**

There is an increasing need for easy-to-use tools that help people identify the life forms on Earth. Some of these aids can be taken to the field to study the species in their own environment, some are lab or office bound and the specimens need to be collected for correct identification.



**Pictorial Keys:**

Keys offer a method of deducing the species assignment of an organism. They are a guide to what a species might be. Final identification may require expert comparison of specimens with the accurate, scientific species description.



**Molecular Taxonomy:**

Molecular markers have been widely used in taxonomic research and DNA-taxonomy studies. Today, DNA-barcoding employs short, species-specific DNA sequences for quick and accurate species identification.

**Digital Taxonomy:**

Computer technology enables taxonomists anywhere to have online access to images and data from biological collections. Software is used to develop easy-to-use taxonomic products such as interactive pictorial keys.



**Species Lists:**

Lists of species are used as a catalogue of, e.g., all species existing in one region, or all endangered species of a given habitat, or all species of one family, etc..

**Libraries:**

Access to both old and current journals is crucial to taxonomic research. Increasingly, older publications are being made available digitally, creating new possibilities for practicing taxonomy cost-effectively in developing countries.



**Reference Collections:**

Well organised, preserved and documented specimen collections are essential resources for identification services, taxonomic research, conservation planning and predicting the impacts of environmental change. They are vital for regulating access and use of biodiversity.

**Taxonomic Products**

Tools and resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

**Taxonomic Services** provided by museums, universities and other institutions:



**Specialist Identification:**

Many organisms are difficult to identify or are not yet known. Expertise in taxonomy is necessary to address such questions and to understand, protect and use biodiversity.

**Routine Identification:**

Millions of tests are done daily, e.g. for diseases, pests, invasives and more.



**Training:**

There is insufficient taxonomic personnel and training is needed to respond to various global demands.



**Surveying:**

One focus of biodiversity surveys is to monitor environmental change caused by human or other impact.

