

Biology Terminology

Speedy Study Guides		BIOLOGY TERMINOLOGY	
Abscission		Abscission is a process of shedding or separating part of an organism from the rest of it. Common examples are that of plant parts like leaves, fruits, flowers and bark being separated from the plant.	
Accidental		Accidental refers to the occurrences or existence of all those species that would not be found in a particular region under normal circumstances.	
Acclimation		Acclimation refers to the morphological and/or physiological changes experienced by various organisms to adapt or acclimate themselves to a new climate or environment.	
Active Transport		The movement of cellular substances like ions or molecules by traveling across the membrane, towards a higher level of concentration while consuming energy.	
Adaptation		Adaptation refers to the genetic mechanism of an organism to survive, thrive and reproduce by consistently enhancing itself by altering its structure or function, in order to become better suited to the changing environment.	
Adipose Tissue		A small supplementary feather, growing from the underside of the base of the shafts of a body feather, it is found in many birds and essential to keep them warm.	
Agonistic		A full set of long and loose feathers used by breeding herons and egrets, during courtship displays.	
Air Sac		A thin-walled air filled structure which is a part of the respiratory system of birds. The air passing through the air sacs acts as their respiratory and temperature regulator.	
Alar		A structure designed to lift and control the airflow by making use of different levels of air waves. A bird in flight uses the concept of alar to control its speed.	
Aligator		A broad rounded crocodiles of the genus <i>Alligator</i> found in subtropical regions. This reptile is known for its sharp teeth and powerful jaws.	
Allopatric		Organisms that occur, originate or occupy in separate geographical areas.	
Alpha Diversity		A measurement of species richness in a natural unit (specified area) consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms in a habitat functioning together.	
Altruism		Inductive behavior performed towards the welfare of others, sometimes at personal cost.	
Alula		A set of quill-like feathers located close to the base of the primary feathers that play a part in increasing or decreasing the lift by affecting the airflow of the wing.	
Alveolus		A small angular cavity, hole or pit in the body.	
Amphidactyl		This term refers to arthropods's two pair radial areas (undersurfaced side) from where the tube feet protrude as well as suckers.	
Anaxion		No invertebrate delicate embryonic or fetal membranes of higher vertebrates like mammals, birds, and reptiles.	
Anoxic Egg		Eggs found in a water impermeable anoxic membrane, filled with fluid in the anoxic cavity, that can develop on land without desiccating themselves.	
Amphibians		Animals that can survive and live on land as well as in water. Amphibians are vertebrates and cold-blooded.	
Aniplexus		Maternal position of the frogs and toads, in which the female sheds the eggs into the water and the male fertilizes it. Fertilization takes place outside the female's body.	
Arthropod		An arthropod subclass of reptiles except for the turtles, that have no opening in the temporal region of the skull.	
Arviculans		Arviculans is a set of feathers that are found near a bird's ear openings.	
Aves		A class of vertebrates comprising the entire bird family.	

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