



THE VARIETY OF LIFE



A survey and a celebration
of all the creatures
that have ever lived



COLIN TUDGE

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ix

Illustration credits xiii

PART I THE CRAFT AND SCIENCE OF CLASSIFICATION

CHAPTER 1

'So many goodly creatures' 3

CHAPTER 2

Classification and the search for order 17

CHAPTER 3

The natural order: Darwin's dream and Hennig's solution 33

CHAPTER 4

Data 63

CHAPTER 5

Clades, grades, and the naming of parts: a plea for
Neolinnaean Impressionism 81

PART II A SURVEY OF ALL LIVING CREATURES

How to use this book 92

1 From two kingdoms to three domains 95

2 The domains of the prokaryotes 107

BACTERIA AND ARCHAEA

3 The realm of the nucleus 127

DOMAIN EUCARYA

4 Mushrooms, moulds, and lichens; rusts, smut, and rot 159

KINGDOM FUNGI

5 The animals 181

KINGDOM ANIMALIA

6 Anemones, corals, jellyfish, and sea pens 211

PHYLUM CNIDARIA

7 Clams and cockles, snails and slugs, octopuses and squids 225

PHYLUM MOLLUSCA

- 8 Animals with jointed legs 247**
PHYLUM ARTHROPODA
- 9 Lobsters, crabs, shrimps, barnacles, and many more besides 269**
SUBPHYLUM CRUSTACEA*
- 10 The insects 287**
SUBPHYLUM INSECTA
- 11 Spiders, scorpions, mites,
eurypterids, horseshoe crabs, and sea spiders 309**
SUBPHYLUM CHELICERATA AND SUBPHYLUM PYCNOGONIDA
- 12 Starfish and brittle stars,
sea urchins and sand dollars, sea lilies, sea daisies, and sea cucumbers 327**
PHYLUM ECHINODERMATA
- 13 Sea squirts, lancelets, and vertebrates 339**
PHYLUM CHORDATA
- 14 Sharks, rays, and chimaeras 355**
CLASS CHONDRICHTHYES
- 15 The ray-finned fish 369**
CLASS ACTINOPTERYGII
- 16 Lobefins and tetrapods 389**
THE SARCOPTERYGII
- 17 The reptiles 407**
CLASS REPTILIA*
- 18 The mammals 433**
CLASS MAMMALIA
- 19 Lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, and apes 461**
ORDER PRIMATES
- 20 Human beings and our immediate relatives 489**
FAMILY HOMINIDAE S.S.
- 21 The birds 515**
CLASS AVES
- 22 The modern birds 529**
SUBCLASS NEORNITHES
- 23 The plants 547**
KINGDOM PLANTAE

- 24 The flowering plants 577
CLASS ANGIOSPERMAE
- 25 Daisies, artichokes, thistles, and lettuce 593
FAMILY COMPOSITAE (OR ASTERACEAE)

PART III
EPILOGUE

- Saving what is left 609
- Sources and further reading* 629
- Geological timescale* 645
- General index* 647
- Index of organisms* 655