

# What is a Species?



What information do scientists use to define species?

1.

2.

# Same



Red-back phase

Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Led-back phase



# Different



Gray Treefrog



Cope's Gray Treefrog



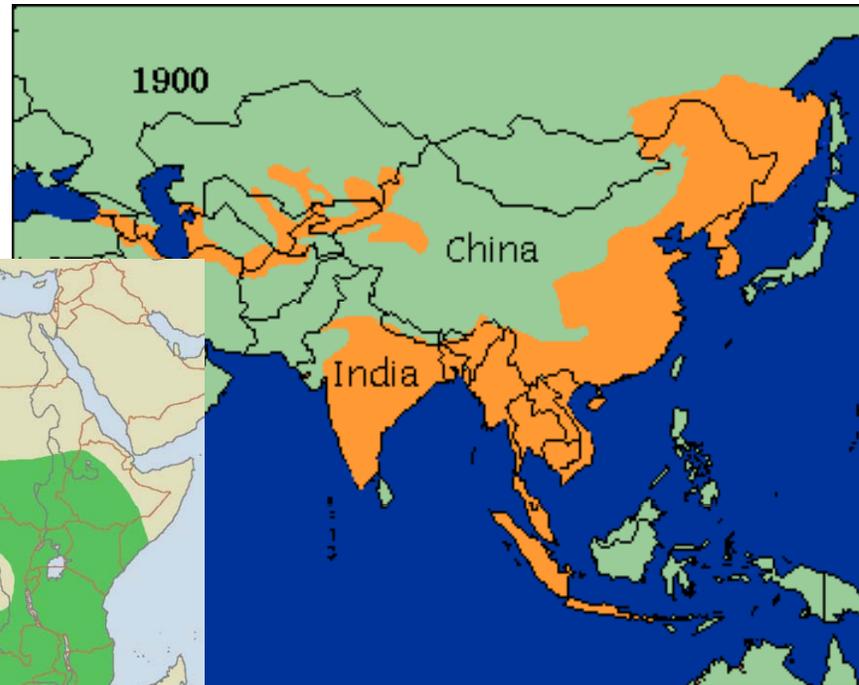
What biological factor defines  
a species?

Reproduction

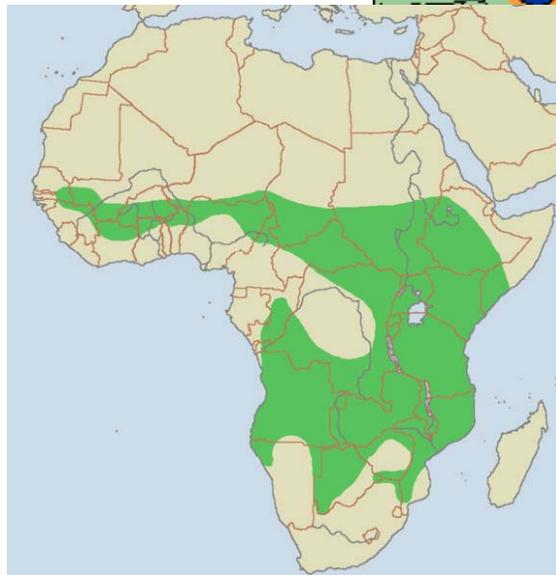
# What is a species?

- Groups of interbreeding populations that are reproductively isolated from other such groups

Tiger



Lion



Lions and tigers are reproductively isolated from each other



Lion

X



Tiger



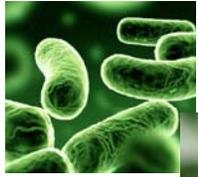
Liger

Hybrid = a cross  
between 2 species

# How many species are there?

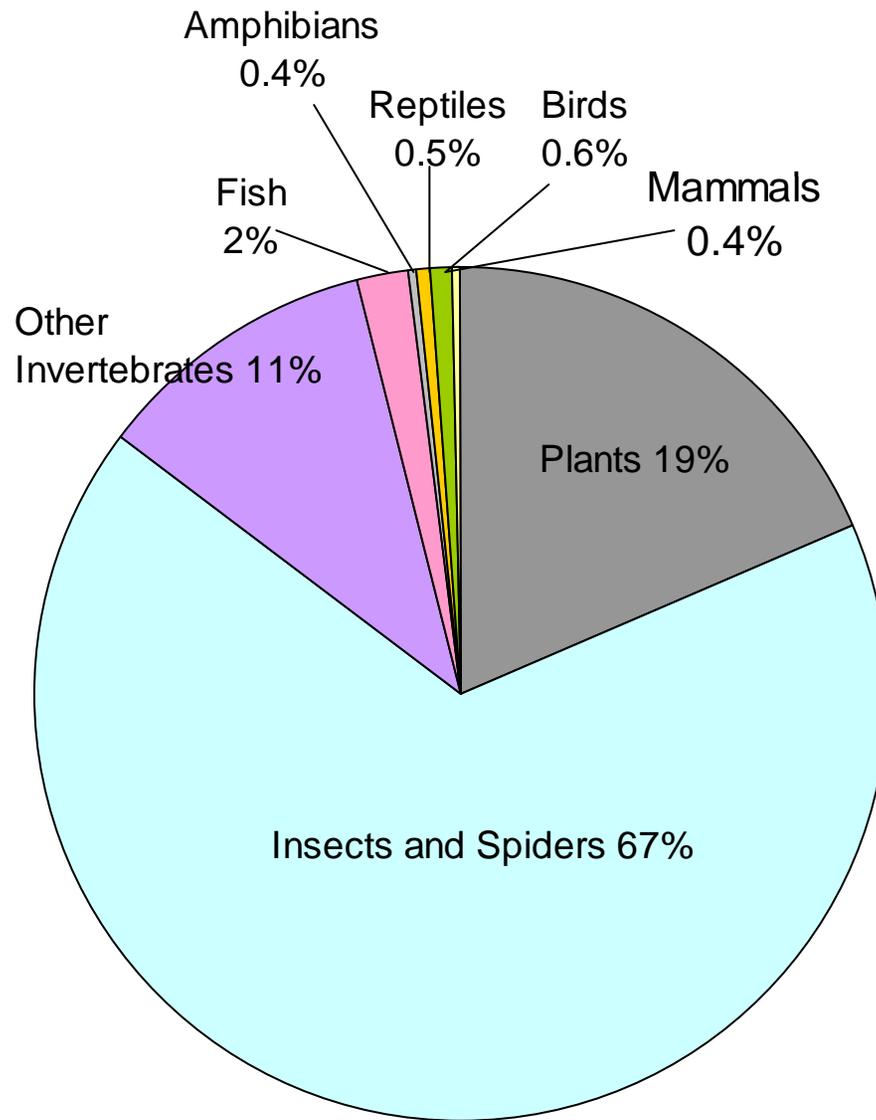
1.7 million known species

# Rank groups by abundance



Bacteria	
Birds	
Fish	
Insects and Spiders	
Amphibians	
Mammals	
Other invertebrates	
Plants	
Reptiles	

1	Mammals	5,416
2	Amphibians	6,200
3	Reptiles	8,240
4	Birds	9,934
5	Bacteria	10,000
6	Fish	29,300
7	Other invertebrates	168,000
8	Plants	287,655
9	Insects and Spiders	1,024,445



# How many species are there?

- Estimated 2-10 million
- 15,000 new species/year
- 600 years to classify all species

