

Biology Terminology

| Term | Definition |
|------------------|---|
| 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 occurrence 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 acclimatize 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. |
| After-Shaft | 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. |
| Agonists | A pair 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 sac acts in their breathing and temperature regulation. |
| Airfoil | 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 airfoil to control its speed. |
| Alligator | A broad snouted crocodilians of the genus Alligator 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 microorganisms 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 bird's lift by affecting the airflow of the wings. |
| Alveolus | A small angular cavity, sac or pit in the body. |
| Amphicela | This term refers to echinoderm's five part radial areas (undersurfaced side) from where the tube feet protrude as well as withers. |
| Anion | The smallest delicate embryonic or fetal membranes of higher vertebrates like mammals, birds and reptiles. |
| Anamniotic Egg | Eggs found in a water impermeable amniotic membrane, filled with fluid in the amniotic cavity, that can develop on land without dehydrating themselves. |
| Amphibians | Animals that can survive and live on land as well as in water. Amphibians are vertebrates and cold-blooded. |
| Amplexus | Mating 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. |
| Anapsid | An extinct subclass of reptiles except for the turtles, that have no opening in the temporal region of the skull. |
| Auriculars | Auriculars is a set of feathers that are found near a bird's ear opening. |
| Aves | A class of vertebrates comprising the entire bird family. |

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