

Preface

Botany is a branch of biology which involves the study of plants. It is one of the oldest sciences in the world, with recorded examples of botanical research and exploration dating back thousands of years. Humans interact with and use plants in a wide variety of ways, making it unsurprising that they have dedicated a great deal of energy to learning more about them, with the earliest attempts focused on finding plants which were safe to eat, while modern botany encompasses a range of activities.

There are a number of subfields within the field of botany, including plant taxonomy, plant pathology, phytoanatomy, plant genetics, phytochemistry, paleobotany, and ethnobotany. These fields of study range from research on plants which existed in earlier eras in the Earth's geologic history to investigations of plants which are used in traditional medicine, with the goal of learning how these plants work and how they might be applied to mainstream pharmaceuticals. Because plants play such an important role in human societies, botanists have a wealth of material to work with.

Dictionary of Botany is an authoritative and up-to-date reference book on all aspects of the study of plants. It offers concise and accessible explanations of terms from plant science, biogeology, evolution, earth history, and all the earth sciences, as well as up-to-date entries on more current fields of interest such as ecology, plant genetics, plant physiology, biochemistry, and cytology. In addition, the book offers good coverage of taxonomic groups and takes full account of recent taxonomical revisions. This book will be a perfect reference tool for amateur botanists, students of botany and anyone interested in the study of plants.

Editor