

#### INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF BOTANY

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#### 1. Introduction:

Botany is a discipline of biology that studies plants. It is often referred to as plant science, plant biology, or phytology. A scientist who specializes in this area is known as a phytologist, botanist, or plant scientist. The Ancient Greek word "botanē" (βοτάνη) means "pasture", "herbs", "grass", or "fodder". The term "botany" originates from this word; it is derived from βόσκειν (boskein), which means "to feed" or "to graze" (1, 2, 3). Historically, the field of botany has encompassed the investigation of fungi and algae, conducted by mycologists and physiologists, respectively. The International Botanical Congress has maintained its focus on these three categories of organisms. Currently, 410,000 species of terrestrial plants are studied by botanists (in the strict sense), of which 391,000 species are vascular plants (containing about 369,000 species) (4, 5).

The majority of other fields of science and technology have contributed to and gained insights from the vast, diverse field of modern botany. The structure, growth, differentiation, reproduction, biochemistry, primary metabolism, chemical products, development, illnesses, evolutionary relationships, systematics, and taxonomy of plants are among the subjects of research. Molecular genetics and epigenetics, which examine the processes and regulation of gene expression during the development of plant cells and tissues, are prominent themes in plant science of the twenty-first century. Plant propagation, breeding, genetic modification, the synthesis of chemicals and raw materials for building and energy production, environmental management, biodiversity preservation, and the provision of staple foods, materials like timber, oil, rubber, fiber, and drugs are just a few of the many uses for botanical research.

#### 2. Scope & Importance:

Studying plants is essential because they support nearly all animal life on Earth by producing a significant amount of food and oxygen, which give humans and other animals that employ aerobic respiration the chemical energy they

require to survive. The three main categories of organisms that do photosynthesis—which uses solar energy to transform water into carbon dioxide—are plants, algae, and cyanobacteria (6).

into sugars, which are utilized in the synthesis of organic molecules that make up the structural elements of cells, as well as a source of chemical energy (7). Plants emit oxygen into the atmosphere as a byproduct of photosynthesis. Nearly all living creatures need oxygen to perform cellular respiration. Furthermore, they have an impact on the world cycles of water and carbon, and plant roots stabilize and bind soils to stop soil erosion (8,9). Because they create and preserve soil and give humans food, oxygen, biochemicals, and products, plants are essential to the survival of human society (10).

In the past, all living things were divided into two categories: plants and animals (11), with the study of all other organisms falling under the umbrella of botany (12). The internal processes and functions of plant organelles, cells, tissues, entire plants, plant populations, and plant communities are studied by botanists. A botanist may be interested in the structure (anatomy and morphology), function (physiology), phylogeny and evolution, or classification (taxonomy) of plant life at each of these levels (13).

### 3. References:

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