

1 **Title: Holophyly and associated concepts if**
2 **the unknown is unclassifiable**

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5 **Subtitle:** Holophyly and associated concepts
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Abstract

The current definitions of holophyly (monophyly *sensu stricto*) and paraphyly suggest a direct inclusion of ancestors in taxa. These ancestors are almost always unknown (undiscovered) in phylogenetics. Therefore, no one describes them as species and does not create other taxa for them. The organisms unknown to science can not be an object of the biological taxonomical classification. Here, the direct inclusion/exclusion of unknown ancestors was replaced with the ability/disability of the systematic group to include them (according to the definition of each specific group). In this way, the problem of incomplete division of the clade into subclades is solved compatible with holophyletic-only classification. The possible definitions of the main phylogenetic concepts for the views of dealing only with known group members were proposed. The system of “phyletic states” of the groups proposed here deals more carefully with ancestors as well as the fact that every two organisms of now-known life have a common ancestor (than the systems stemmed from Haeckel, who did not reject the possibility of multiple origins of known life). Inability to provide a concise definition of holophyly using the existing terms indicates the lack (or imprecision) of more basic concepts. These concepts (phylon, rendestor, inprestor, ancessure) were also proposed (or improved) here and holophyly was defined using them near the end of the paper.

Keywords: *enophyletic; merophyletic; kollitophyletic; schizophyletic; drade; skade.*

INTRODUCTION

Many biologists use a kind of model-dependent realism (Hawking and Mlodinow 2010a, b; Koonin 2011), where characters of known organisms serve as the base for the construction of a phylogenetic tree—a hypothesis, which in its turn becomes accepted as a reflection of phylogeny in each particular case. This reflection serves as the base for conclusions on groups’ states and on features of some ancestors of different known organisms like the last common ancestor of known eukaryotes (Koonin 2010; Desmonda et al. 2011; O’Malley et al. 2019) or the last common ancestor of known eukaryotes plus known archaea (Forterre 2013; Doolittle 2020). It is the way by which undiscovered entities appear in scientific discussions. Despite the growing volume of predictions about them, these entities still can not enter the classification.

In natural sciences, the key criterion for proving the existence of an object (like a physical particle of a previously unknown kind, an atom of a previously unknown element or an organism of a previously unknown species) is its observation and/or observation of traces of the existence of this object (radiation, remains of vital activity etc.). Only objects that meet this criterion can be classified (e.g. introduced in the periodic table of elements or described as a species). Single unknown organisms or unknown species can not enter the classification. Despite this, the current system of phylogenetic concepts (*holo-/monophyly*, *paraphyly*, and *polyphyly* as they are currently defined) is not adapted to the separation of known and unknown organisms (as well as populations, species, etc.) including ancestral ones. The current definitions of *holophyly* and *paraphyly* suggest a direct inclusion of ancestors in taxa (*Encyclopedia of Life Science—Cullen 2009, p. 91; PhyloCode—de Queiroz and Cantino 2020, Article 2.1; Campbell biology —Urry et al. 2021 p. 560; etc.*). These ancestors are almost always unknown in phylogenetics. Therefore, no one describes them as species and does not create other taxa for them. Unknown organisms can not be an object of biological taxonomical classification. Thus, we are deprived of direct manipulation of unknown organisms. With this in mind, the triad *holo-*, *para-*, and *polyphyly* can not function normally. The difference of *holo-* and *paraphyletic* groups from *polyphyletic* groups is whether the last common ancestor is a member of the group. Since almost always the last common ancestor can not be included in the taxon because this ancestor is unknown, nonsense and confusion arise. Current phylogenetic discussions require a system of more accurately defined concepts.

Unknown organisms are not considered members of groups (for example, new species are described as new, rather than already existing in the group). However, there is one problematic type of unknown organisms—the unknown ancestors of known organisms. For some reason, everything is not so simple with them. A remarkable feature of biological systematics and phylogenetics is that known descendants inevitably imply the existence of their ancestors, even if these ancestors are unknown. But this implication is not enough to “specify the identity” for each of the unknown ancestors. This can be compared to the following analogy from the judiciary. If the existence of some illegal organisation with a leadership management system is proven, then it certainly has a leader. However, this data is not enough to bring any person to trial. As in the case of unknown ancestors, a “vacancy” is known here, but not a specific identity. Despite all this, the non-classification of unknown organisms contradicts the current system of phyletic states and creates confusion in it.

109 Hennig (1950; 1965; 1966) was probably aware that only known organisms can be classified. At the
110 same time, he considered the probability of finding an ancestor of any group so low that he did not stipulate the
111 inclusion of ancestors in any way in his definitions of phyletic terms. Ancestors *de facto* were excluded from the
112 groups. This theoretical inaccuracy led to the rapid inclusion of the last common ancestor by other authors in
113 the definitions of the three “phyly”. The inclusion was direct and unconditional. This lack of differentiation
114 between known and unknown organisms has led to confusion among taxonomists (see Podani 2010 for review).
115 Probably, both of the main types of the vision of phylogenetic trees shown by Podani (2009, Fig. 2; 2010, Fig. 1)
116 are not completely correct and the consensus seems possible and necessary (compare aforementioned figures
117 of Podani and Fig. 1, here).

118 Currently, there is some inconsistency in the phylogenetic practice. The phylogenetic terminology does
119 not specifically stipulate the separation of known and unknown organisms. The definitions are widely used, but
120 users often do not pay attention to unknown ancestral organisms regarding their obligatory inclusion in taxa,
121 which the current definitions of *holo-* and *paraphyly* dictates. For example, they divide one clade into two
122 subclades, supposedly without a remainder and use the wording “last common ancestor of X” disregarding the
123 unknown organisms, which can be the part of X. If we assume that unknown organisms are not considered
124 members of groups *a priori*, then arises the problem of demarcation of *holophyly* and *paraphyly* from *enophyly*
125 and *merophyly* respectively (see below). Regardless of the user’s views, the terms “last common ancestor” and
126 “progenitor” are used like there are no unknown ancestors at all. Logically, the ancestor or progenitor of the
127 group can not be (or even be able to be) a member of that group (Fig. 2).

128 To be consistent we should either directly include unknown ancestors in taxa somehow, describe
129 species for them and introduce at least one paraphyletic subtaxon per taxon or not include them directly and
130 amend the system of concepts. The differentiation between known and unknown organisms makes it possible
131 to accurately and unambiguously define several phylogenetic terms, to avoid the problem of description of
132 unknown organisms, and to make the cladistic systematics possible (i.e. a full division of one clade into two
133 subclades). However, this differentiation makes necessary changes and additions in the system of concepts. The
134 revised and supplemented system of concepts with definitions and comments is proposed below. It starts with
135 the basic concepts (e.g. *phylon*, *inprestor*, *rendestor* and *ancessure*), which were used to define *enophyly*,
136 *merophyly*, *holophyly*, *paraphyly*, and *schizophyly*, which follow after them.

137 From the actual content of a group of organisms coupled with a phylogenetic reconstruction, one can
138 only conclude whether the group is *enophyletic* or *merophyletic* (see below). To get more than two variants
139 when any two organisms have a common ancestor and to determine whether a group is *holo-*, *para-*, or
140 *schizophyletic*, we are forced to conclude about a certain part of ancestors of known members of a group
141 (*inprestral ancessure*, see below): 1) is the definition of this group capable of ensuring the inclusion of all
142 *inprestral ancessure* members in the theoretical case, if all of them become known; 2) whether the *inprestral*
143 *ancessure* of the given group gave rise to any known organisms outside the given group.

145 CONCEPTS AND COMMENTS

147 THE CORE CONCEPT

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149 Before distinguishing known and unknown organisms fitting the definitions of groups it is needed to
150 introduce the core concept using no such distinctions. This concept (*phylon*) can serve as the frame for
151 this distinguishing and has a definition similar to one currently widely used for an holophyletic group
152 (monophyletic group *sensu stricto*; clade) with the addition allowing a singleton to be a phylon.
153 Nevertheless, it is just the logically starting point having a direct practical sense only when the
154 ancestor and all its descendants together are discovered (such a group can be named Zander’s (2009)
155 term euphyletic). The form “*phylon*”—the direct transliteration from Greek—is chosen here to avoid
156 confusion with the phylum—the taxonomic rank.

160 **PHYLON** (/ˈfaɪlɒn/; from Greek *φῦλον* [*phylon*] - tribe) — the ancestor plus all its
161 descendants, or the set of a sole member having no descendants.

165 **PHYLETIC STATES DEPENDING ON GROUP'S ACTUAL CONTENT (OF DISCOVERED MEMBERS)**

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168 **ENOPHYLETIC** group (/ɛnə(ʊ)flɪ'letɪk/; from Greek *ενότητα* [*enótita*] - unity) — a set
169 of known organisms, for which at least one phylon exists, all known
170 members of which they are.

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172 **MEROPHYLETIC** group (/mɪrə(ʊ)flɪ'letɪk/; from Greek *μέρος* [*méros*] - part, portion) — a set of
173 known organisms of common descent for which no phylon exists, all known
174 members of which they are; or a set of a sole known member having known
175 descendants.

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177 **POLYPHYLETIC** group (/pɒlɪflɪ'letɪk/; from Greek *πολύς* [*polús*] - many, much) — a set
178 of known organisms, which have no common ancestor; descendants of
179 different ancestors (an exclusively theoretical concept in the present
180 state of knowledge of life in the universe).

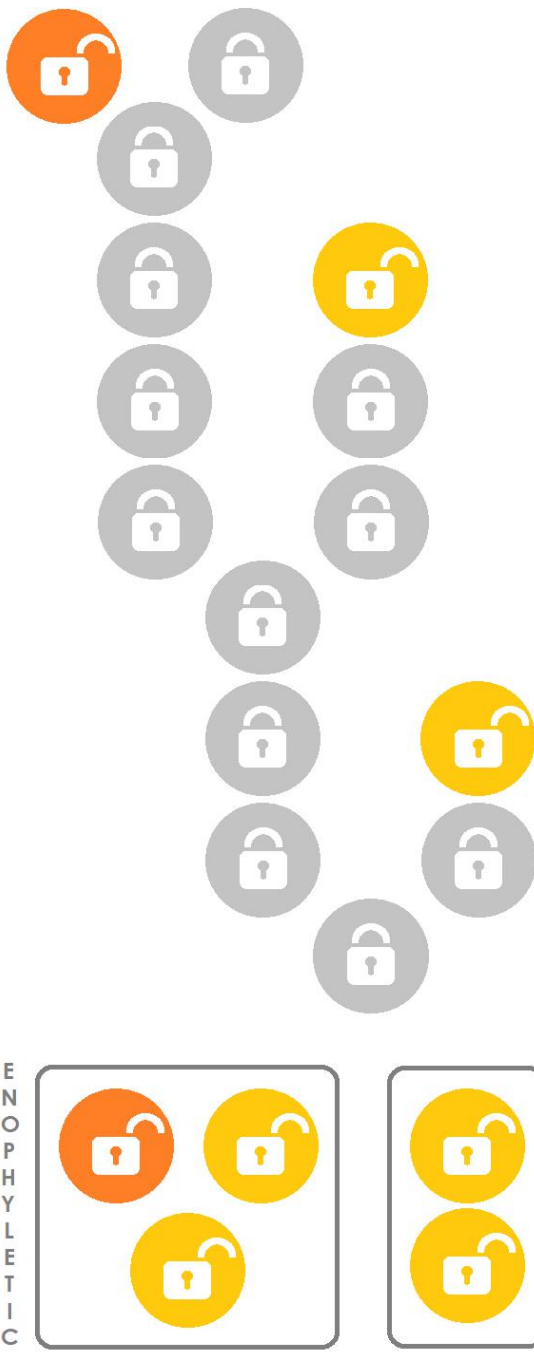


Figure 1. The tree of ancestor–descendant relationships. Circles with open locks represent known elementary units of classification, circles with closed locks represent the unknown units.

ANCESTOR AND PROGENITOR ARE MISUSED CONCEPTS, REPLACEMENTS

There is a logical and semantical problem with both the wording “*last common ancestor*” and the word “*progenitor*” without adding “*of the known members of the group*”. The progenitor of a group can not be a member of that group. Likewise, an ancestor of a group can not be a member of that group. Also, an ancestor and a progenitor are *unable to be included* in the group (Fig. 2). The phrase “*My granny is the ancestor of my granny, my mother and me*” is not correct. So is this phrase if we replace the word “*ancestor*” with “*progenitor*”. The last common ancestor of eukaryotes could not have a nucleus. Otherwise, it will be one of the eukaryotes but not their ancestor. The same is with the concepts “*concestor*” (simple contraction from “*common ancestor*” coined by Nicky Warren and popularised by Dawkins (2004); see p. 7 in *op. cit.*) and “*cenancestor*” (originally coined by Fitch and Upper (1987)). This issue and the cumbersomeness of the wording “*the last common ancestor of the known members of the X*” as well as the un-pronounceability of possible abbreviation LCAKM were reasons for the short term (*rendestor*), which would not be burdened with pre-existing other definitions. The absence of the concept was the reason for the introduction of *inprestor*. The wording “*First Common Ancestor*” (FCA), which is sometimes used (e.g. Koumandou et al. 2013; Dacks et al. 2016; Eme et al. 2017) stands even less criticism. Literally, the FCA of any group goes to the origin of known life. This indicates the need for the concept of *idioprestor*.

RENDESTOR of a group (/ˈrɒndɛstə/; from French *rendezvous* - a meeting at an agreed time and place, and the ending *-estor*, like in the word *ancestor*) — the last in natural history common ancestor of all (two or more) known members of the group except this ancestor itself if this ancestor is known and is a member of the group.

INPRESTOR of a group (/ˈɪnpɹɛstə/; from *in*, Greek *πρώτα* [*próta*] - first, and the ending *-estor*, like in the word *ancestor*) — the first in natural history ancestor of all known members of the group (except this ancestor itself if this ancestor is known and is a member of the group), which is able to be included (or *is* included) in the given group.

IDIOPRESTOR of a group (/ɪdɪə(ʊ)pɹɛstə/; from Ancient Greek *ἰδίος* - pertaining to self, one’s own, private (as opposed to public); Greek *πρώτα* [*próta*] - first, and the ending *-estor*, like in the word *ancestor*) — the first in natural history ancestor of all known members of the group (except this ancestor itself if this ancestor is known and is a member of the group) and no known organisms outside the group.

SUPPORTING CONCEPT: AN ANCESTRAL LINK

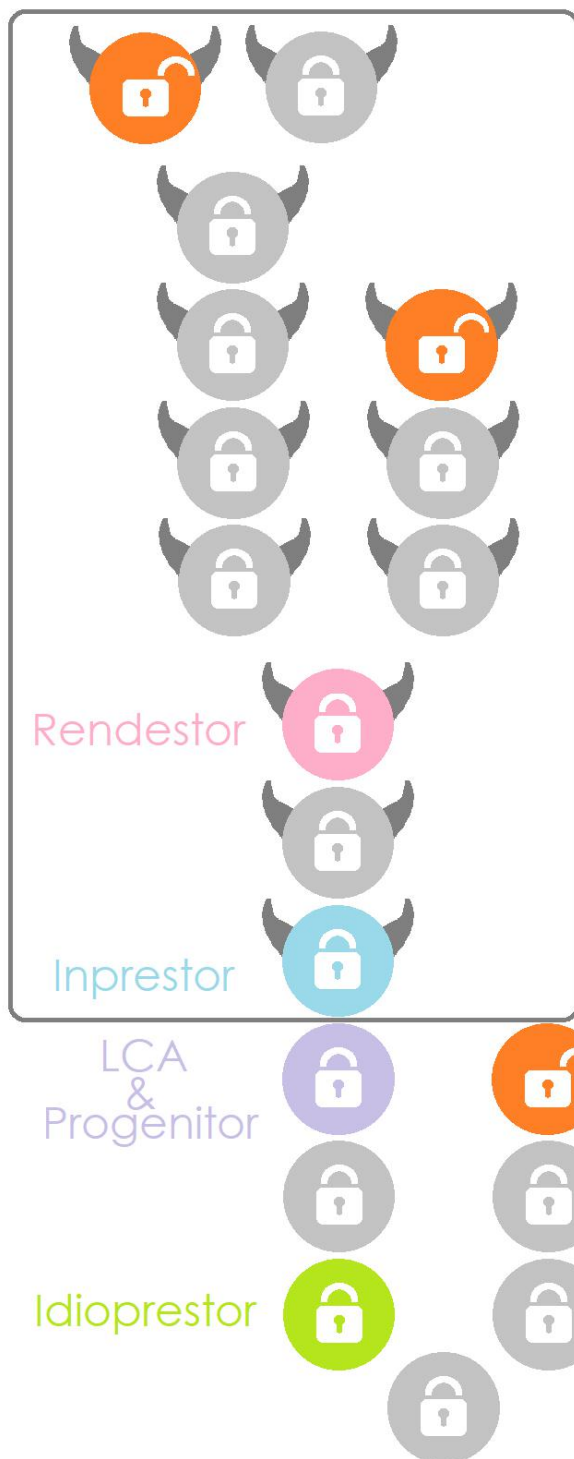
The basic criterion, which gives us *eno-* and *merophyly*, is not dealing with unknown organisms, including unknown ancestors. Unknown ancestors are matter that can not be completely divided into discrete units (e.g. could not be divided into a number of species). Although inside it some positions can be distinguished (such as the *rendestor*, the *inprestor*, the *idioprestor*), these are not specific identities. In each given moment of the time, some ancestors of known members of a group appear as a solid functional unit with an ancestor of all known members of the group (e.g. *rendestor* or *inprestor*). The common term for this unit seems highly suitable.

ANCESSURE of a group (/ˈænsɛsˈjʊə/; contraction from *ancestor* and *commisure*) — a usually branching continuous sequence composed of at least one ancestor of all known members of the given group (except this ancestor itself if this ancestor is known and is a member of the group) as well as (if any) all descendants of this ancestor, which also are ancestors of known members of the group.

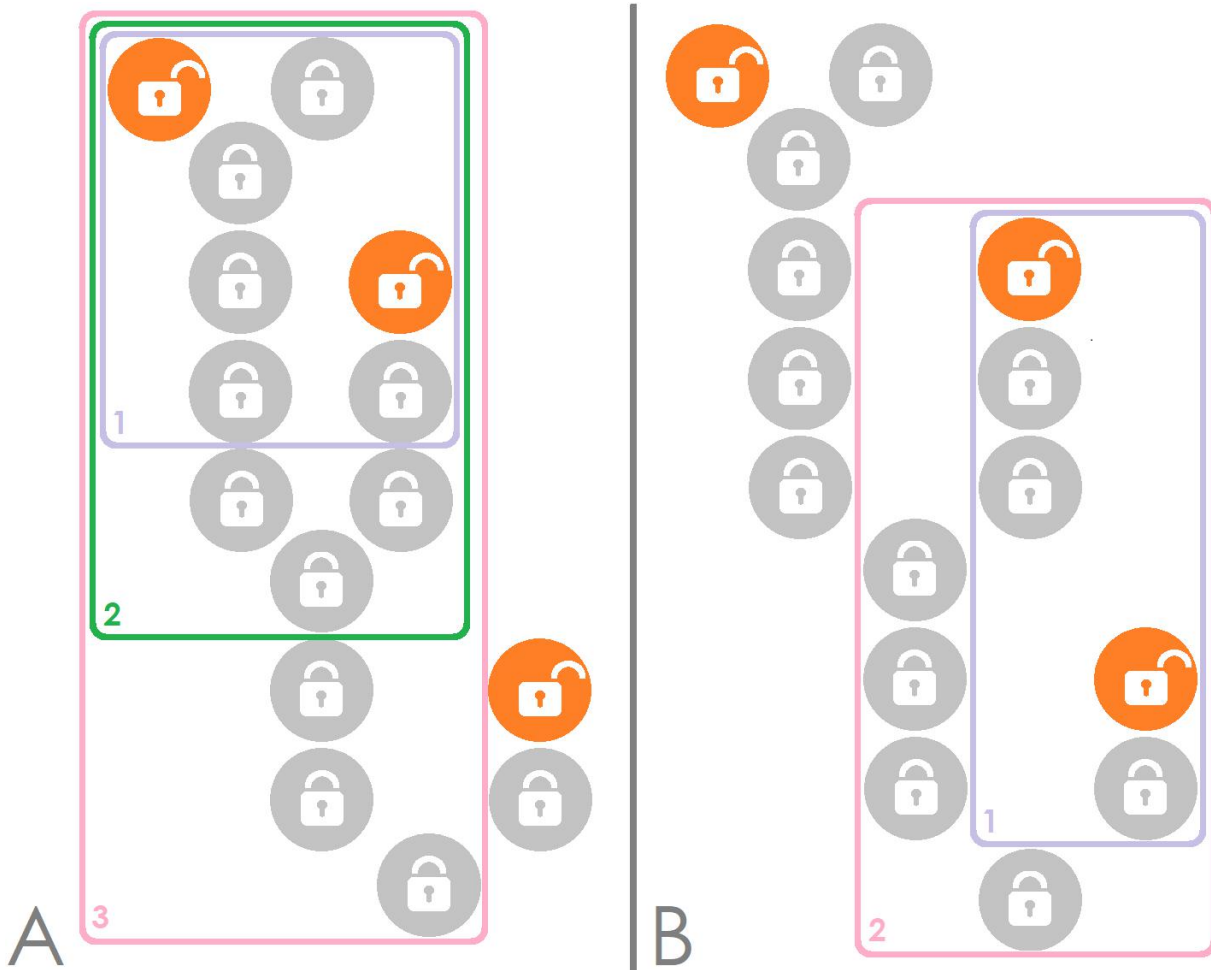
268 **INPRESTRAL ANCESSURE** of a group — the inprestor of the given group plus (if any) all the
269 inprestor’s descendants, which also are ancestors of known members of the given
270 group.
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272 **RENDESTRAL ANCESSURE** of a group — the rendestor of the given group plus (if any) all the
273 rendestor’s descendants, which also are ancestors of known members of the given
274 group.
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278 An *ancessure* is not always just the minimal ligament between known members of a group
279 through ancestors. Only the *rendestral ancessure* is this minimal ligament. Any *non-rendestral*
280 *ancessure* can include not just the *rendestor* but also “a tail” to (and including) an earlier common
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286 **Figure 2. The tree of ancestor–descendant**
287 **relationships illustrating the different identities**
288 **of rendestor, inprestor, idioprestor and last**
289 **common ancestor (LCA) and progenitor. The grey**
290 **frame is the definitional borders of the group**
291 **based on the apomorphy of horns.**
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319 **Figure 3. Possible definitional borders for the equivalent sets of two known organisms: enophyletic (A) and**
320 **merophyletic (B). The groups A1 and B1 are schizophyletic. A2 is holophyletic. A3 and B2 are paraphyletic.**

321 ancestor of all known members of a group (e.g. *inprestor* in the case of *inprestral ancessure*; see Figs. 2
322 and 4). An *ancessure* can include known, unknown organisms or a mixture of both and can consist of
323 only one ancestor (if all known members of the group are its direct descendants). Using the *ancessure*
324 concept, it is possible to define the following basic duet of the phyletic states (Fig. 4).
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326 ***PHYLETIC STATES DEPENDING ON THE ABILITY TO INCLUDE ENTIER ANCESSURE***

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329 **KOLLITOPHYLETIC** group (/kəlaɪtə(ʊ)flɪˈlɛtɪk/; from Greek *κολλητός* [*kollitós*] - glued) — a set
330 of known organisms, which has the non-zero *inprestral ancessure* and is able
331 to include all its members (according to the definition of the group) and no
332 unknown ancestors of known organisms outside the group unless these
333 ancestors are the members of the *inprestral ancessure* or the continuous
334 sequence of immediate descendants of the *inprestral ancessure*.
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337 **SCHIZOPHYLETIC** group (/skɪtsə(ʊ)flɪˈlɛtɪk/; from Greek *σχίζω* [*skhízō*] - split) — a set of known
338 organisms, which is unable to include all members of its *inprestral* (if it is non-
339 zero) or *rendestral* (in all other cases) *ancessure* (according to the definition of
340 the group) or able to include unknown ancestors of known organisms outside
341 the group if these ancestors are not the members of the *inprestral ancessure*
342 and not the continuous sequence of immediate descendants of the *inprestral*
343 *ancessure*.
344

345 A *kollitophyletic* group has the potential to include unknown members of its *inprestral*
346 *ancessure* but does not include them before they are known. A *kollitophyletic* group is usually able to
347 include the *rendestor* (as it is usually the part of the *inprestral ancessure*; the only exception is some
348 singleton sets, see below) and always has the *inprestor* (the *rendestor* and the *inprestor* are the same
349 *ancessure* member in the case of minimal clades). Usually, *schizophyletic* groups have no single
350 *inprestor*, although their parts have their own *inprestors*. Also, *schizophyletic* groups are usually
351 unable to include the *rendestor*.
352

353 **PHYLETIC STATES DEPENDING ON WHETHER GROUP'S INPRESTRAL ANCESSURE GAVE RISE TO** 354 **DISCOVERED ORGANISMS OUTSIDE THE GROUP**

356 Having the two basic phyletic dichotomies it is finally possible to define the duet of phyletic
357 variants emerging at the intersection of *kollitophyly* with *eno-* and *merophyly* (Fig. 4). It is *holophyly*
358 and *paraphyly*.
359

361 **HOLOPHYLETIC** (monophyletic *sensu stricto*)* group (/hɒlə(ʊ)faɪ'letɪk/; from Greek ὅλος [hólos]
362 whole) — a *kollitophyletic* group, the *inprestral ancessure* of which did not give
363 rise to any known organism outside the group; or a set of a sole member having
364 zero *inprestral ancessure* and no known descendants.
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366 **PARAPHYLETIC** group (/pɛ.ɪə(ʊ)faɪ'letɪk/; from Greek παρά [pará] - beside, near, alongside) — a
367 *kollitophyletic* group, the *inprestral ancessure* of which gave rise to at least one
368 known organism outside the group; or a set of a sole member having zero
369 *inprestral ancessure* and known descendants.
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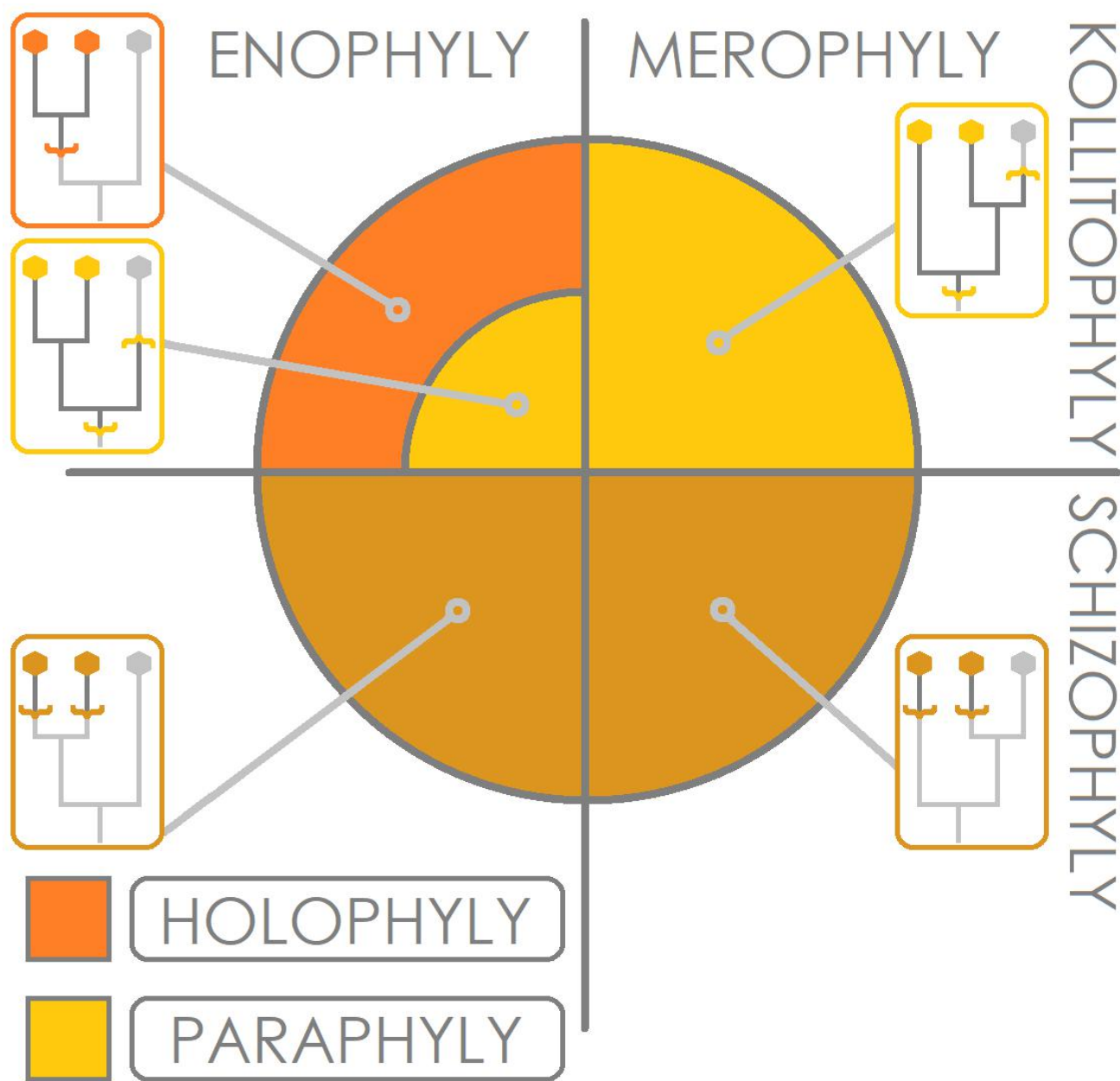
372 An *inprestral ancessure* may give rise to known organisms outside the given group either directly
373 (immediate descendant(s) of a member of the *ancessure*) or indirectly through a series of generations
374 separating the member of the *ancessure* and known organism(s) outside the group. In this series of
375 generations, there may be known member(s) of the group.

376 Sets of a sole member with a zero *inprestral ancessure* (i.e. having no *inprestor* in accordance
377 with the definition of a given set) can not be *kollitophyletic* or *schizophyletic*. At the same time, such
378 singleton sets can be *eno-* and *holophyletic* (if descendants of the sole member are unknown) or *mero-*
379 and *paraphyletic* (if descendants of the sole member are known). *De facto* there are not two but three
380 phyletic states in the row *kollitophyletic* groups – *schizophyletic* groups. These sets of a sole member
381 having zero *inprestral ancessure* are the third state in this row—*atomophyletic* groups (Fig. 5).
382 *Kollitophyletic* groups always have both *rendestral* and *inprestral ancessures*. For a *schizophyletic*
383 group always at least a *rendestral ancessure* exists. For an *atomophyletic* groups neither *inprestral* nor
384 *rendestral ancessures* exist (there is neither *inprestor* nor *rendestor*). Singleton sets, the definition of
385 which allows the inclusion of the ancestors of the only member, have a linear *inprestral ancessure* (i.e.
386 from the *inprestor* to the member of the group; Fig. 5). Therefore, such groups can be divided into
387 *kollitophyletic* and *schizophyletic*, depending on whether or not the group is capable of including all
388 members of the *inprestral ancessure* if they became known (Fig. 5).
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390 *The term *holophyletic* was preferred here because of the number of meanings of the term *monophyletic*, both definitional and
391 etymological. As already noted, a monophyletic group defined as “the ancestor plus all its descendants” has the very limited application
392 if we take the definition literally—only the groups having more than one member where both the ancestor and all its descendants are
393 discovered (monophyletic group *sensu strictissimo*/euphyletic group). Actually, phylogenetic taxonomists use it in the more loose sense
394 (monophyly *sensu stricto*), probably the same as *holophyletic* group as it was defined here. Evolutionary taxonomists use it probably in
395 the same sense as *kollitophyly* (monophyly *sensu lato*). As there was no differentiation between known and unknown organisms
396 relatively to the phyletic states before, additional confusion arose. This confusion allows the term *monophyly* to be treated as a synonym
397 of *enophyly* or *kollito-enophyly* or to cover both *eno-* and *merophyly*. It is quite attractive to treat *monophyly* in the latter sense
398 (“descendants of one ancestor”/“belonging to a single phylon”; *sensu latissimo*) opposite to *polyphyly*, although it extremely reduces the
399 term’s usefulness. Haeckel, who introduced the concepts *monophyly* and *polyphyly* (Haeckel 1866), also used them as antonyms and,
400 notably, did not reject the possibility of multiple origins of known life (e.g. Haeckel 1866 p. 198; 1868 p. 347; 1873 p. 371; 1894 p. 89;
401 see Dayrat 2003 and Rieppel 2010 for review). In such views the terms *polyphyly*, as it was defined here, and *monophyly*, as its antonym,
402 were applicable. Despite all this, it is still possible to treat *monophyly* as the synonym of *holophyly* (as the latter was defined here) and

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the definition of holophyletic group used here can also be treated definition of monophyly [*sensu stricto*]. Although, the term, then, became misleading and the etymology is violated. It can not be deduced from Ancient Greek μόνος [mónos] (“one”, “alone”, “only”, “sole”, “single”) like in the cases of monophyletic group *sensu strictissimo* (it is exactly one phylon) or *sensu latissimo* (members of the group belong to one phylon) as the meaning of the term is exactly “whole”, “entier” (Ancient Greek ὅλος [hólos]) both in relation to known organisms and in relation to unknown members of the ancessure.



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Figure 4. The diagram of the relationships of phyletic states among themselves. Coloured hexagons represent known group members. Grey hexagons represent the known organisms outside the group. The groups: on all three trees on the left are enophyletic; on all two trees on the right are merophyletic; on all three trees above are kollitophyletic; on all two trees below are schizophyletic. Atomophyly is not shown. The colour of the hexagons and borders around each tree matches the colour of the segment of the vertical half of the diagram. Examples of five types of groups shown: holophyletic—mammals (Mammalia), birds (Aves); para-enophyletic—choanomonads (Choanomonada; as the redestor of choanomonads and metazoans had a collar and was a monad, i.e. is inside the definitional borders of choanomonads); schizo-enophyletic—TSAR grouping (see below); para-merophyletic—reptiles (Reptilia); schizo-merophyletic—warm-blooded animals (Homotherma).

421 The distinct entities of *enophyletic* and *holophyletic* groups raise the question of to what kind of
 422 groups the term *clade* should be ascribed. Although *merophyletic* groups now are not generally
 423 considered *clades*, there are still three options left of what the *clade* can be considered (Fig. 4):
 424 1) an *enophyletic* group, 2) a *kollito-enophyletic* group or 3) a *holophyletic* group. As the etymology of
 425 the term *clade* (from Greek κλάδος [*kládos*] - shoot, branch) minds the inclusion of an *ancestral* and
 426 no breaks in the branch, here the term *clade* was applied only to *holophyletic* groups as they were
 427 defined here.

428 Such an interpretation of the term *clade* brings the issue with the groups formed by a simple
 429 listing of their members or subgroups. Many such groups are unable to include their entire *rendstral*
 430 *ancestral* and therefore are *schizophyletic*. For example, the wordings “Sar+Telonemia clade” or
 431 “Telonemia formed the clade with Sar” or “TSAR clade” will not be correct since the *rendstral*
 432 *ancestral* is not able to be fully included here (see Strassert et al. 2019 for the phylogeny). TSAR were
 433 defined as “Telonemia + Sar grouping” (Strassert et al. 2019, p. 761). Wherein, Telonemia were
 434 defined on the complex of morphological traits (Shalchian-Tabrizi et al. 2006, p. 1840) and Sar were
 435 defined with the minimal-clade definition (Adl et al. 2012, p. 431). Therefore, this group is
 436 *schizophyletic* although *enophyletic* (*schizo-enophyletic*; see Fig. 4, 6). For such purposes, a short term
 437 for “*enophyletic* group” seems needed.

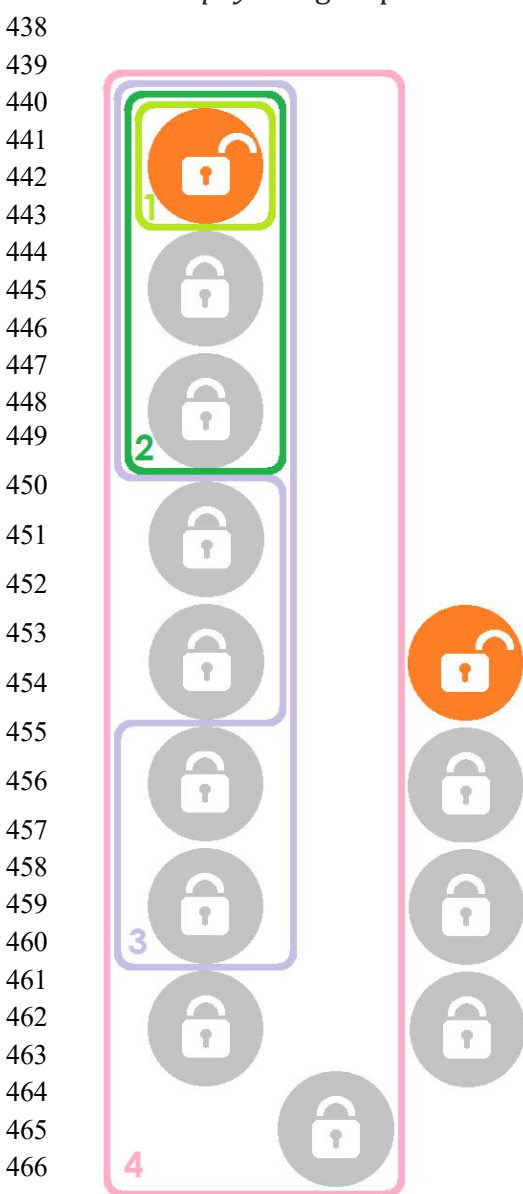


Figure 5. Possible diagnostic borders for the same singleton set (of one known organism): atomophyletic and holophyletic (1), holophyletic (2), schizophyletic (3), paraphyletic (4). All sets pictured are enophyletic. Sets 2 and 4 are kollitopyletic. All they could be merophyletic if the only included known organism had known excluded descendant(s). Sets 1 and 2 in this case would be paraphyletic. Atomophyly of the set 1, kollitophyly of the sets 2, 4, schizophyly of the set 3 and paraphyly of the set 4 would be unchanged.

DRADE (/d.ræid/; from the two first letters of the semantic core in L. *polydrupa*—the type of fruit to which raspberries belong, bramble fruit, the type of aggregate fruit easily separable from the receptacle—and the ending *-ade*, like in the terms *grade* and *clade*) — an enophyletic group .

CLADE (/kleid/; from Greek κλάδος [*kládos*] - shoot, branch) — a holophyletic group.

The short term for paraphyletic groups also seems necessary there. The term [evolutionary] *grade* does not mean “a paraphyletic group”. Grades can also be *holophyletic* and *schizophyletic* as these terms were defined here (see Huxley 1957; 1958; 1959).

SKADE (/skeid/; from Greek σκαλών [*skalón*] - flight of stairs) — a paraphyletic group .

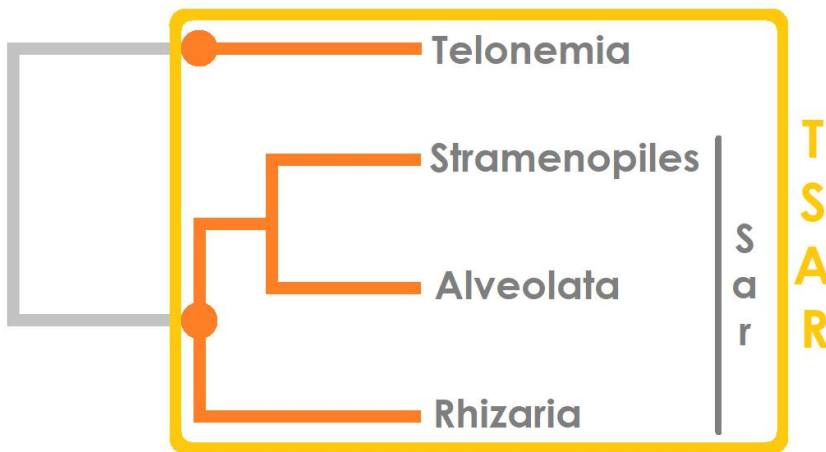


Figure 6. Schematic phylogenetic tree of Telonemia, Stramenopiles, Alveolata, and Rhizaria illustrating schizophyly of the union of Telonemia with Sar (TSAR drade). Definitional borders of TSAR are shown in yellow. Unincluded part of the rendestral ancessure is shown in gray. Inprestors of Telonemia and of Sar are shown with orange circles. As Sar are the minimal-clade, the inprestor, in this case, is the same identity as the rendestor.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Every two currently known organisms are descendants of one ancestor. Therefore, true *polyphyletic* groups do not exist in the current scientific reality.
- 2) Regardless of the likelihood of discovering each specific ancestor, a good system of concepts should be designed for the case when ancestors are found. The likelihood of this is very high near the terminals of the Tree of Life. However, the inclusion of unknown organisms (including unknown ancestors) can not be direct and immediate.
- 3) A group having the same composition may have different “phyletic states”, depending on how this group is defined. Only *eno-* or *merophyly* reflects the composition and the branching pattern of the group. All other “phyletic states” depend on the definition of each specific group.
- 4) *Rendestor* is a short and correct term for what is now misleadingly and confusingly called a last common ancestor, almost always without adding “of the known members of X”. Please note that

520 Dawkins (2004) also used the analogy with rendezvous, although he did not create the term on this
521 base using instead the term *concestor* (to reduce “last common ancestor”).

522
523 5) In discussions about the origin of a group (for example, about eukaryogenesis), we are talking
524 primarily about the *inprestor* of this group.

525
526 6) *Ancessures* of groups is a hitherto unnamed component of phylogenetic trees, usually shown simply
527 by lines. Members of an *ancessure* are almost always unable to be included in taxa as they are
528 unknown. Nevertheless, definitions of that taxa, which are considered *holophyletic* or *paraphyletic* (i.e.
529 *kollitophyletic* taxa) should have the potential to include all members of their *inprestral ancessures*,
530 although do not include them directly. In other cases, we can only talk about *enophyly* or *merophyly*.

531
532 7) The demarcation between *enophyly*, *kollito-enophyly*, and *holophyly* is the Achilles’ heel of existing
533 systems of phylogenetic concepts.

534
535 8) The difference of *holophyletic* and *paraphyletic* groups (i.e. *kollitophyletic* groups) from
536 *schizophyletic* groups is the ability to include the entire *inprestral ancessure* (see also Kwok (2010),
537 who used the terms “connected group” and “disconnected group”, although he does not distinguish
538 between known and unknown organisms).

539
540 9) The difference between *holophyletic* and *paraphyletic* groups is whether the *inprestral ancessure* of
541 the group gave rise to any known organism outside the group.

542
543 10) Definitions of the term *clade*, which do not use the separation of known and unknown organisms
544 do not allow any clade to be completely divided into subclades—at least the *rendestor* will remain.
545 This has been emphasised, for example, by Cavalier-Smith (1998 p. 211). Such definitions of the *clade*
546 create problems in cladistic systematics. Cladistic systematics is the drive to constantly reduce non-
547 holophyletic groups to only unknown organisms. However, such a definition of the clade (like the one
548 given here for the *phylon*) is widespread and adopted, for example, by the PhyloCode (de Queiroz and
549 Cantino 2020, Article 2.1). Regardless of how acceptable we think *paraphyletic* groups are, cladistics is
550 possible only in the views adopted here and *paraphyletic* groups can be reduced to cases with known
551 ancestors.

555 ORIGINS OF THE TERMS

556
557 The number of terms used here was introduced by other authors with different definitions and/or
558 applications. The terms *monophyly/monophyletic* and *polyphyly/polyphyletic* originated from Haeckel
559 (1866). The terms *paraphyly/paraphyletic* originated from Hennig (1962). The terms
560 *holophyly/holophyletic* originated from Ashlock (1971). The terms *merophyly/merophyletic* originated
561 from Ghiselin (1981; probably having a priority: “Winter”, the first *Paleobiology* issue of the year) or
562 Bernardi (1981; probably later: the fourth *Revista Brasileira de Entomologia* issue of the year). The
563 terms *schizophyly/schizophyletic* and *euphyly/euphyletic* originated from Zander (2009). The term
564 *clade* originated from Cuénot (1940).

565
566 Although the aforementioned authors clearly applied their terms to the states of groups of organisms,
567 some of the terms seem to have a prehistory of different applications. The wording “*holophyletische*
568 *Wirkung*” appeared in Boas 1949 (p. 79). Kühn (1935 p. 131) used “*paraphyletische Variation*” and the
569 wording “*paraphyletic process*” appeared in The Madras Agricultural Journal (Editor[s] of this journal
570 1949 p. 283). I have not been able to figure out the exact meaning of these uses.

571
572 Also, the term “*monophylie*” (the same spelling is used for “monophyly” in French and German—the
573 native language of Haeckel and Hennig) appears in some digitalised versions of some French

574 dictionaries of the early XIX century (Bosc in [Sonnini et al. 1803 p. 541](#); Poiret in [Lamarck and Poiret](#)
575 [1804 p. 168](#); [Lunier 1805, p. 94](#); Loiseleur Deslongchamps in [Lacroix et al. 1821, p. 47](#); Richard in
576 [Audouin et al. 1825, p. 538](#)). Nevertheless, all of these sources contain the imprecisely
577 digitalised/printed word “*monophylle*” (confer the different links under each aforementioned source
578 in the References section)—the adjective used for the type of construction of a flower calyx (or what
579 was taken for it).

580

581 The terms *enophyly/enophyletic*, *kollitophyly/kollitophyletic*, *drade*, *skade*, *idioprestor*, *inprestor*,
582 *rendestor*, and *ancessure* are believed by the author to be new.

583

584

585 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

586

587 None declared.

588

589

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