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Species Delimitation: New Approaches for Discovering Diversity FREE

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Systematics can be considered to have two major goals: (1) to discover and describe species and (2) to determine the phylogenetic relationships of these species. But even a quick perusal of titles in *Systematic Biology* throughout most of its 15-year history will confirm an obvious fact: most articles focus on reconstructing phylogenies and on using these phylogenies to address evolutionary or biogeographic questions, with few papers on the methodology underlying this first major goal of systematics research (Fig. 1).

...

Nevertheless, species delimitation, the process by which species boundaries are determined and new species are discovered, may finally be emerging as a major topic in modern systematics (e.g., Sites and Marshall, 2003). New methods for species delimitation are being developed (e.g., Puerto et al., 2001; Templeton, 2001; Wiens and Penkrot, 2002; Morando et al., 2003; Pons et al.,...

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