Biological Species

A group of **interbreeding natural** population that **do not** (usually) successfully **mate** or **reproduce** with **other such groups** (which occupy a specific niche)

Asexual Species

Fragmentation - Starfish	An arm is removed, and grows into a new Starfish. Where the arm that was removed, a new arm will regrow on the old body.
Budding - Yeast cells	Buds come off of their organisms which, are genetically identical to them.

When relatives mate

Two different, yet closely relating species mate	Horse + Donkey = Mules (mostly infertile)	Russet-backed Thrush + Olived-backed Thrush (fertile offspring)

Cohesion Species

Small group of cohesive individuals that share intrinsic cohesive mechanisms.

Genetic cohesive mechanisms	Gene flow and stabilising selection function to maintain species integrity

Cohesion Species (cont)

Ecological cohesive mechanisms	Abundance, demographic stability, strengths of interactions with other species
Potential for genetic and/or demographic exchangeability.	Downplays hybridisation (i.e. what separates species)

Ecological Species

Lineages that **occupy** and **adaptive zone different** in some way from that of any other lineage **within** its range, and which **evoles separately** from all other lineages **outside** its range

Common ancestor but now diverged **Ecological competition** within its **own species**

Adapting to individual niches

Recognition Species

Recognise each other for the purpose of **mating** and **reproduction**	Linked to **features** used to recognise mates
White peacock	Females would not recognise him as the same speices. They may not mate with him.
The Western meadowlark and Eastern meadowlark	Look very similar but have a different song. They do not breed as their distinct song prevents them from recognising each other.

The sixth mass extinction

Earth appears to be undergoing a **6th mass extintion**	Extinction is occurring **faster** than **"background extintion"** (which occurs between the mass extinction events)
1 species extinct per 1 million species **each year**	Rate of between 10-10,000 times faster than background extinction

Recent data

Lower estimate	200-2000 species a year
Upper estimate	10,000-100,000 species a year

Extinction comes after

Decrease in poppulation **size**	Decrease in population **distribution**

Hard to know..

We don't know how many species exist

Impossible to estimate	>Take **samples** and extrapolate up >Look at **patterns** in identication rates >Look at **ratio** - such as 1:6 vascular plants to fungi
Bias towards species	>Charismatic >Larger >Common species
Least known or described	>Fungi >Viruses >Bacteria
1.5 million catalogued so far	100k well known

Eastimated to be 3-10 million species **globally**

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Anthropogenic causes

Anthropogenic hazards are **hazards** caused by **human action** or **inaction**. They are contrasted with natural hazards. Anthropogenic hazards may adversely affect humans, other organisms, biomes, and ecosystems.

land development	is altering the landscape in any number of ways such as: Changing landforms from a natural or semi-natural state for a purpose such as agriculture or housing Subdividing real estate
overexploitation	the action or fact of making excessive use of a resource.
Species translocations and introductions	Translocation: The intentional capture and release of animals to the wild to establish, reestablish, or augment a population.
pollution	the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects.

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