

The first edition of "Systema Naturæ" was published in 1735 and the last (12th) in 1768. Zoologists accept as the starting point for determining the generic and specific names of animals the tenth edition of 1758, while botanists have taken the 1753 edition of the "Species Plantarum", of which the first edition was published in 1737, as their starting point in nomenclature.

Before Linnæus, the lion was described as the "cat with a tuft at the end of the tail," and the tiger as the "yellow cat variegated with long black stripes." Such a method of description was both cumbersome and unsystematic, especially when the number of species became numerous.

Linnaeus gave each species a double name, e.g., *Felis leo* and *Felis tigris*, the second name being the specific title, and the first the *genus*, a group of more or less similar species. In addition, genera were grouped into *Orders*, and *Orders* into *Classes*.

With the adoption of the binomial system "certainty and precision were introduced into the art of description."

The successive steps are known as Divisions, Classes, Orders, Families, Genera, Species, Varieties which may be arranged as follows:

