

suitable names and groupings; but Linnæus, by a happy hit, succeeded in accomplishing this important and difficult task, when he established the so-called "*binary nomenclature*." The binary nomenclature, or the twofold designation, as Linnæus first established it, is still universally applied by all zoologists and botanists, and will, no doubt, maintain itself, for a long time to come, with undiminished authority. It consists in this, that every species of animal and plant is designated by two names, which stand to each other in the same relation as do the christian and surnames of a man. The special name which corresponds with the christian name, and expresses the idea of "a species," serves as the common designation of all individual animals or plants, which are equal in all essential matters of form, and are only distinguished by quite subordinate features. The more general name, on the other hand, corresponding with the surname, and which expresses the idea of a genus, serves for the common designation of all the most nearly similar kinds or species.

According to Linnæus' plan, the more general and comprehensive generic name is written first; the special subordinate name of the species follows it. Thus, for example, the common cat is called *Felis domestica*; the wild cat, *Felis catus*; the panther, *Felis pardus*; the jaguar, *Felis onca*; the tiger, *Felis tigris*; the lion, *Felis leo*. All these six kinds of animals of prey are different species of one and the same genus—*Felis*. Or, to add an example from the vegetable kingdom, according to Linnæus' designation the pine is *Pinus abies*; the fir, *Pinus picea*; the larch, *Pinus larix*; the Italian pine, *Pinus pinea*; the Siberian stone pine, *Pinus cembra*; the knee timber, *Pinus mughus*; the