

BIOLOGY • CLASS 12

13

CHAPTER

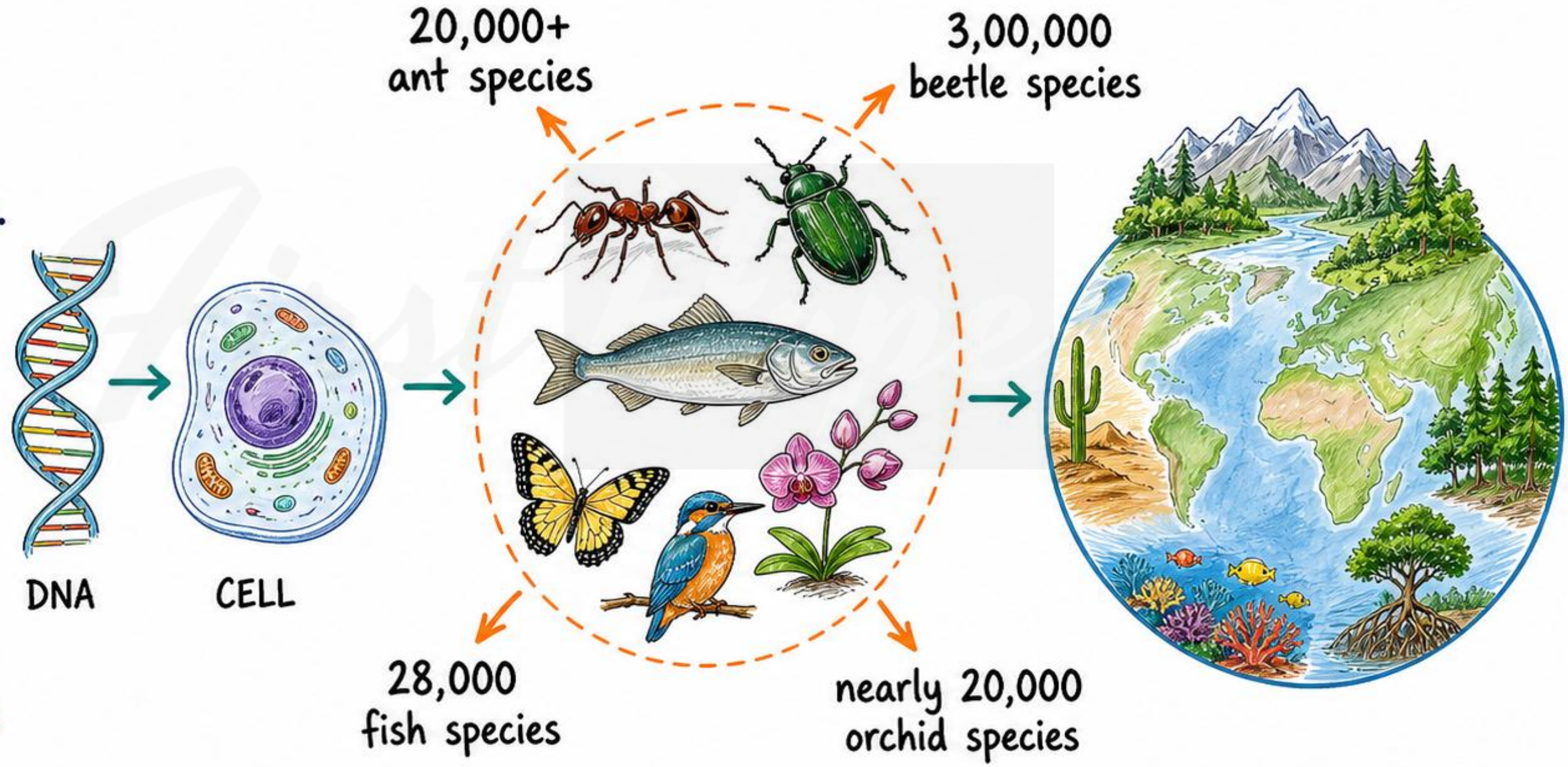
Biodiversity and Conservation

CHAPTER NOTES



BIODIVERSITY: MEANING & SCALE

- Biodiversity = combined diversity at all levels of biological organisation.
- The term was popularised by sociobiologist Edward Wilson.
- Life varies from molecules and cells to species, ecosystems and biomes.



★ Why does this diversity matter?

THREE LEVELS OF BIODIVERSITY

GENETIC DIVERSITY

variation within one species



Rauwolfia:
reserpine potency
and concentration
vary

50,000+
rice strains

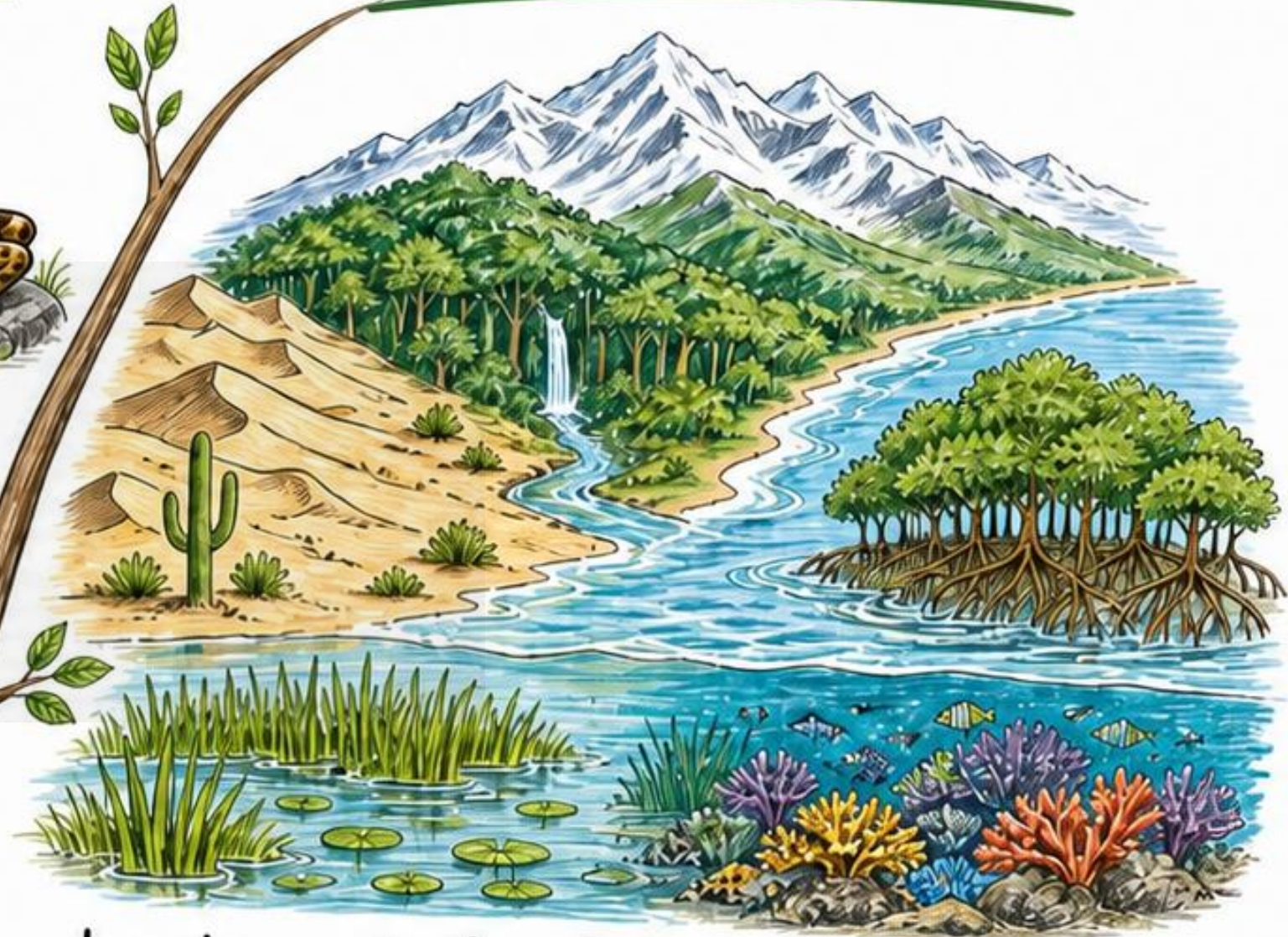
1,000
mango varieties

SPECIES DIVERSITY



Western Ghats >
Eastern Ghats
amphibian diversity

ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

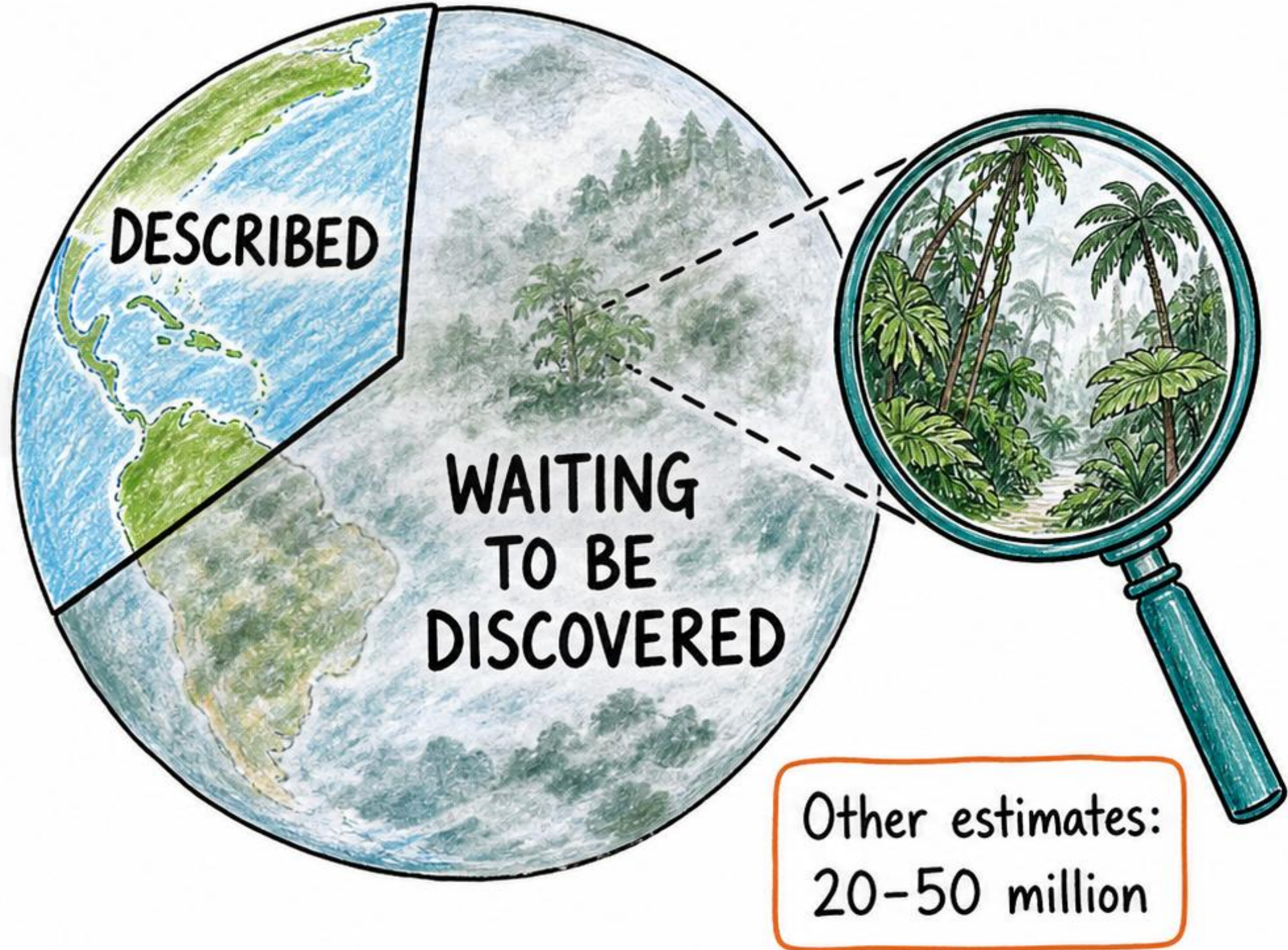


deserts • rain forests • mangroves •
coral reefs • wetlands • estuaries • alpine meadows

Biodiversity exists within species, among species and among ecosystems.

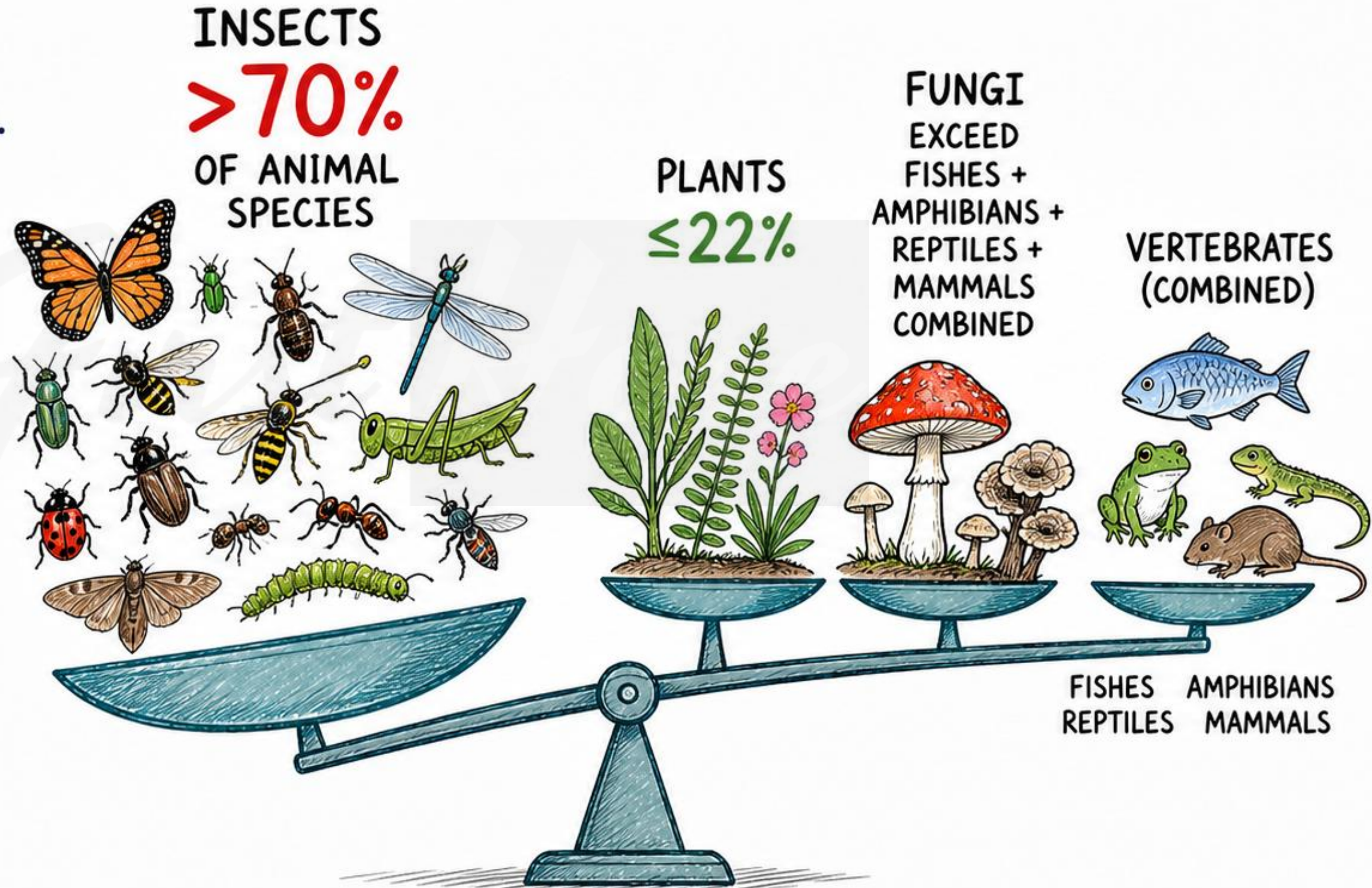
HOW MANY SPECIES ON EARTH?

- IUCN (2004): slightly more than 1.5 million plant and animal species described.
- The undiscovered total is unknown, especially in the tropics.
- Estimate method: compare temperate–tropical richness in well-studied insects, then extrapolate.
- Robert May: about 7 million species.



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY: MAJOR TAXA

- Animals: more than 70% of recorded species.
- Plants: no more than 22%.
- Insects: more than 70% of animal species – about 7 of every 10 animals.
- Fungi species exceed fishes + amphibians + reptiles + mammals combined.





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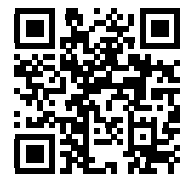


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