

BIOSIS Previews® Biosystematic Codes and the Organism Classifier Term Conversions

Introduction

When BIOSIS reprocessed the back years files for the BIOSIS Previews database in 2003, they implemented a revised list of Biosystematic Codes and Organism Classifiers. In particular they restructured the codes and many classifiers for Viruses. Additionally BIOSIS replaced outdated codes with current codes (codes used only from 1969-1972, for example, were replaced with the appropriate current codes). The result of these changes is consistent application of the Biosystematic Codes throughout the BIOSIS database, which will result in simpler searching and better retrieval.

Many searchers and end-users of the BIOSIS files depend on the Biosystematic Codes for searching, and many Alerts, saved searches and similar pre-programmed functions are based on the Biosystematic Codes. Since over 240 of these codes have now changed, it is very important that users be alerted to the changes, which became effective with the reload of the BIOSIS database.

The following three documents detail the Biosystematic Codes and the Organism Classifier term conversions.

1. **All Old Codes:** full list of the **old** codes, in numeric order by the old code, with new code, new organism classifier term and complete Super Taxa term list [PDF, 2.62MB]
2. **Changed codes:** only the codes that changed [PDF, 770KB]
3. **Changed terms:** only the organism classifier terms that changed [PDF, 380KB]

Nearly all of the 'old codes' have been retired, and are not present in the new, revised list of Biosystematic Codes. There are three exceptions to this:

03200 was Animal Viruses (1969-1978) is now **ssDNA Viruses**
 03400 as Plant Viruses (1969-1978) is now **dsRNA Viruses**
 03600 was Bacterial Viruses (1969-1978) is now **Positive Sense ssRNA Viruses**

Three codes from the old Biosystematic Code list have been retired without being replaced by new codes:

27000 Paleobiology (1969-1992)
 29000 Paleobotany (1969-1992)
 31000 Paleozoology (1969-1992)

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