

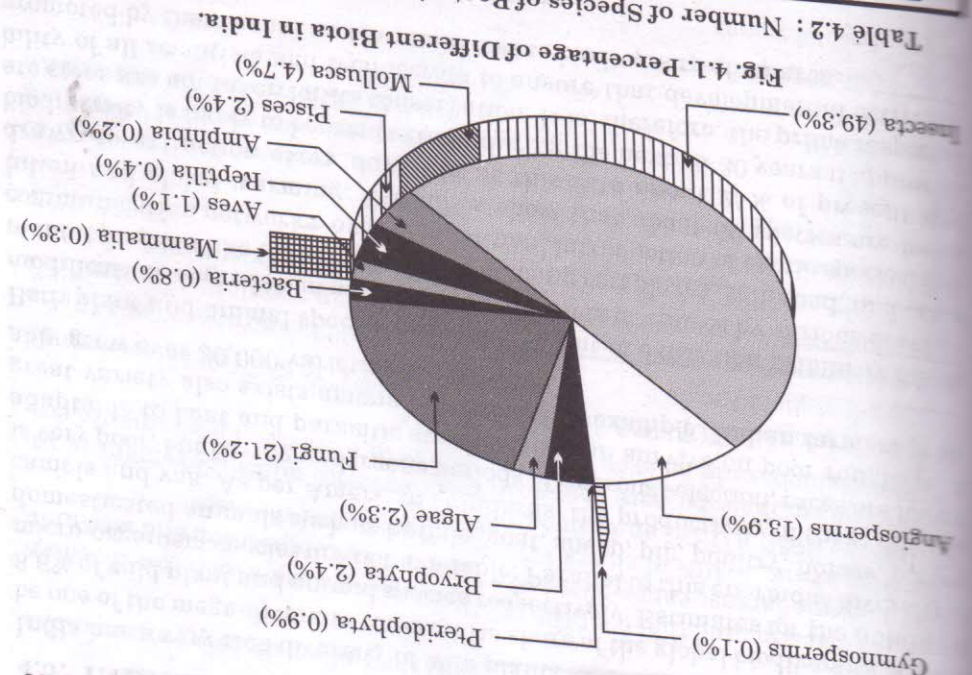
Table 4.1 Known and Estimated diversity of life on Earth

Form of Life	Known Species	Estimated Total Species
Insects and other arthropods	874,161	30 Million species, extrapolated from surveys in forest canopy in Panama, most believed to be unique to tropical forests.
Higher plants	248,400	Estimates range from 275,000 to 400,000 at least 10.15% species believed undiscovered.
Invertebrates (excludes arthropods)	116,873	True invertebrates may number millions of species. Nematodes, eelworms, and roundworms may each comprise more than one million species
Lower plants (fungi and algae)	73,900	Not available
Micro organisms	36,600	Not available
Fish	10,056	21,000 assuming that 10% fish remain undiscovered, the Amazon and Orinoco rivers alone may account for 2,000 additional species.
Birds	9,040	Known species probably account for over 98% of all birds.
Reptiles and Amphibians	8,962	Known species probably account for over 95% of all reptiles and amphibians.
Mammals	4,000	Known species probably account for over 95% of all mammals.
Total	1,390,992	10 million species considered a conservative estimate. If insect estimates are accurate, total exceeds 30 million.



Taxon	Number of Species	Percentage
Bacteria	850	0.8
Fungi	23,000	21.2
Algae	2,500	2.3
Bryophyte	2,564	2.4
Pteridophyta	1,022	0.9
Gymnosperms	64	0.1
Angiosperms	15,000	13.9
Insecta	53,430	49.3
Mollusca	2,546	2.4
Pisces	204	0.2
Reptilia	446	0.4
Aves	1,228	1.1
Mammalian	372	0.3
Total	108,276	100.00

Table 4.2 : Number of Species of Bacteria, Fungi, Plants and Animals



152. National and Local Level  
 Diversity and its Conservation

India has over 108,276 species of bacteria, fungi, plants and animals already counted and described (Table 4.2). Out of these, 84 percent species constitute (21.2 percent), flowering plants (13.9 percent), and insect (49.3 percent). In terms of the number of species, the insecta alone constitute nearly half of the diversity in India (Fig 4.1).

These species occur on land, fresh and marine waters, or occur as symbionts in animalistic or parasitic state with other organisms. In the world as a whole, 104,000 species of Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae and Animalia have been described so far. However, it is estimated that at least 179,80,000 species exist in the world, but as a working figure 122,50,000 species are considered to be near reality.