



## Anton van Leeuwenhoek | Botany



**Botany n. 1** the scientific study of plants. (See note.) **2** the plant life of a particular area or time.  
[botanic f. F botanique or LL botanicus f. Gk botanikos f. botane plant]

- *Bacillus subtilis*
- *Arachnoidiscus Ehrenbergii*
- *Orchis Militaris*
- *Claviceps Purpurea*
- *Tilia Cordata*
- *Metasequoia Glyptostroboides*
- *Atropa Belladonna*
- *Taxus Baccata*
- *Amanita Muscaria*
- *Populus Nigra*
- *Cryptomeria Japonica*
- *Larix Kaempferi*

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The study of plants has a long history: Theophrastus (c. 300 BC) wrote about their form and function, and they remained of interest thereafter, especially because of their medicinal properties. John Ray produced the first systematic account of English flora, and Linnaeus devised a system for naming and classifying plants which is still used (in modified form) today. Study of plant anatomy developed in the 17th century, and of plant physiology a century later, with important advances such as the discovery of photosynthesis. Modern botany has contributed much to agriculture and horticulture with discoveries such as plant hormones, systematic breeding techniques, and advances in plant biology and pathology.

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