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PROLEGOMENA TO BIOLOGY:
FROM PERCEPTION TO CLASSIFICATION

Abstract

The cognitive work which precedes, in biology, the theoretical and experimental activity includes several phases that must be carefully examined, in order to provide a rigorous basis to that science. Among them there are:

- the perceptive distinction of a biological entity from the background;
- the formation of a *cognitive type*, i.e. a sort of private, multimedial, mental schema about the biological entity, and about the entities similar to it; this phase involves problems of identity, similarity, diversity;
- the formation of a *nuclear content*, resulting from the public sharing of the information about the above-mentioned entities, with problems of intersubjective interpretation;
- the formation of a public, disciplinary *molar content*, i.e. the complex and extended system of specialized, hierarchical and taxonomic notions about the above-mentioned entities, with problems of categorization and classification.