

# Glossary

<b>Acropetal</b>	Upward from the base or the point of attachment.	<b>Morphology</b>	the study of the form and structure of organisms and their specific structural features.
<b>Allometry</b>	is the relation between the size of an organism and aspects of its physiology and morphology.	<b>Morphospace</b>	A morphospace is a representation of the possible form, shape or structure of an organism. Each axis of the morphospace corresponds to a variable which describes some character of the organism. Each point in the morphospace represents an individual organism.
<b>Apical bud</b>	The bud located at the end of a branch, which is the location where shoot growth occurs.	<b>Over-dispersion</b>	a distribution with a higher than expected variance.
<b>Apical control</b>	is the inhibition of lateral branch growth by shoots above it (distal shoots). If the distal shoots are cut off to remove apical control, the lateral branch can grow larger and may bend upwards.	<b>Physiological age</b>	or biological age is a measure of how well or poorly an organism is functioning relative to its chronological age.
<b>Basipetal</b>	Downward toward the base or point of attachment.	<b>Plant Physiology</b>	is relating to the function of organs and organ systems of plants, and how they work to respond to stimuli.
<b>Biome</b>	a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.	<b>Understory</b>	is a layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of a forest.
<b>Chronological age</b>	is the time of existence of an organism.	<b>Senescence</b>	or biological aging is the gradual deterioration of functional characteristics of an organism.
<b>Climax species</b>	are the predominant plant species in an ecosystem.	<b>Shoot</b>	A young branch springing from the main stock of a plant.
<b>Cohort senescence</b>	is the senescence of a group of plants of similar age.	<b>Tropism</b>	the turning of all or part of an organism in a particular direction in response to an external stimulus. Phototropism: growth of a plant in response to a light. Gravitropism: growth of a plant in response of gravity.
<b>Decurrent architecture</b>	A decurrent branching habit is a plant form common for shrubs.	<b>Vigor</b>	is the vitality of a plant and its subsequent performance.
<b>Ecological succession</b>	is the process of change in the species structure of an ecological community over time.		
<b>Excurrent architecture</b>	Plant form with a pronounced central stem extending to the top, resulting in an overall conical or pyramidal tree shape.		
<b>Homeostasis</b>	is the tendency toward a relatively stable equilibrium between interdependent elements, especially as maintained by physiological processes.		
<b>Lateral bud</b>	A lateral or axillary bud is located in the axil of a leaf. Each bud has the potential to form shoots, and may be specialized in producing either vegetative shoots (stems and branches) or reproductive shoots (flowers).		