

# INTRODUCTION TO FUNGI

“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

attributed to Chief Seattle but significantly altered by Ted Perry, an American university instructor and screenwriter, for a documentary on pollution



# ORIGINS OF FUNGI



Artist rendition of Devonian period fungi. – PBS Eons

# CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

## CLASSIFICATION OF LIFE

Domain

Kingdom

Phylum (-phyta)

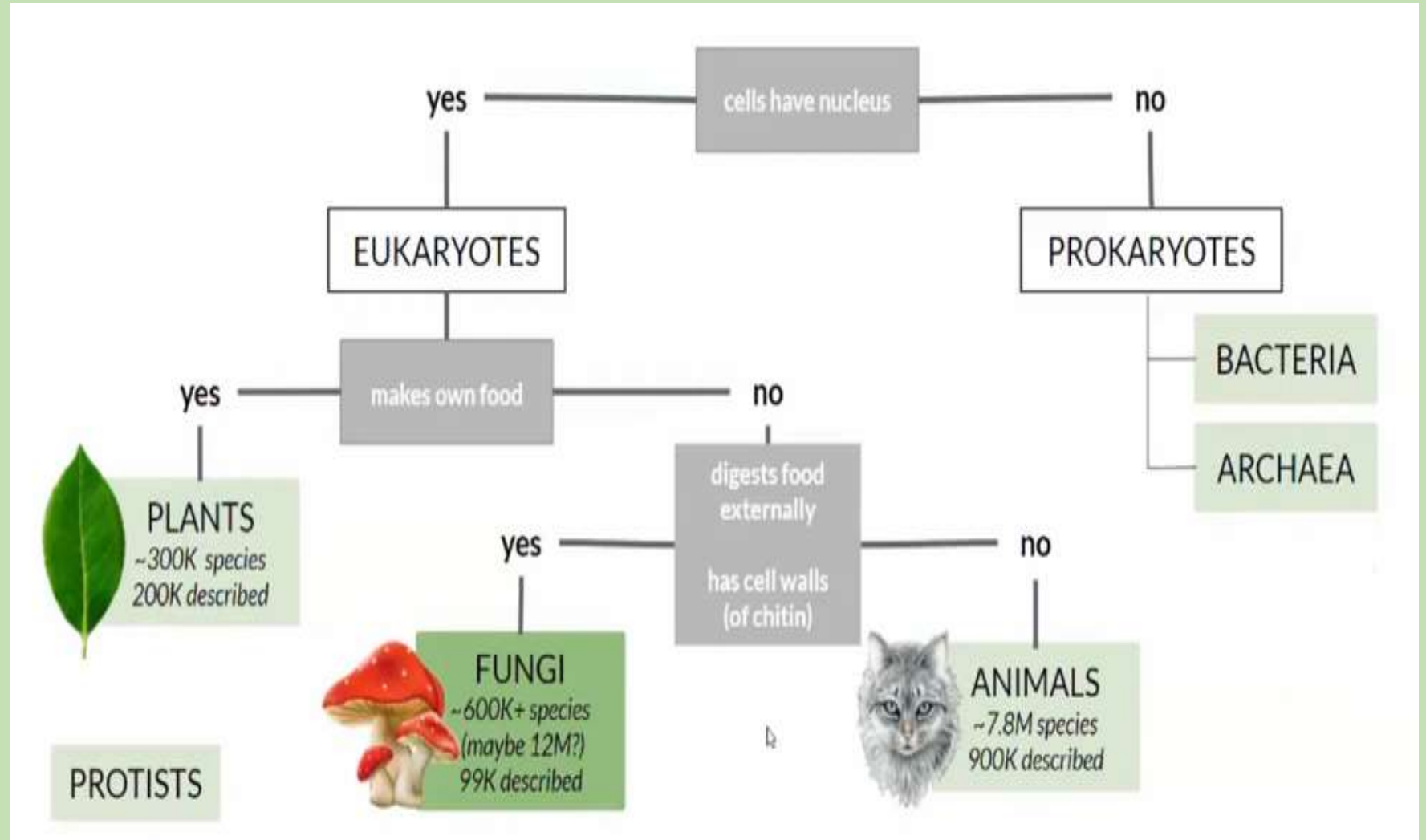
Class (-opsida)

Order (-ales)

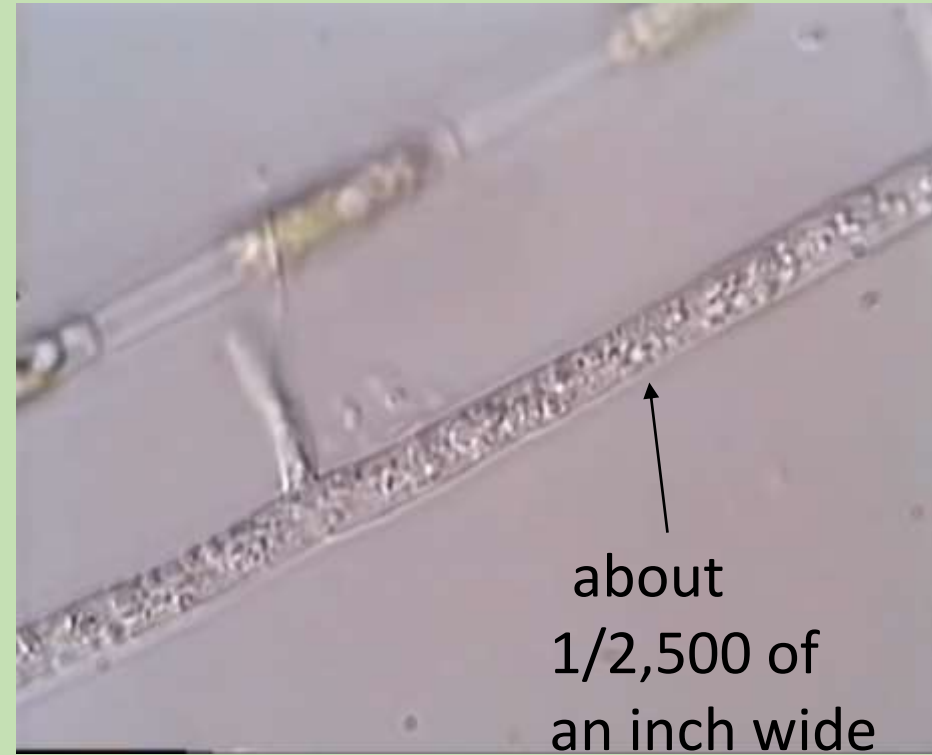
Family (-aceae)

*Genus*

*species*



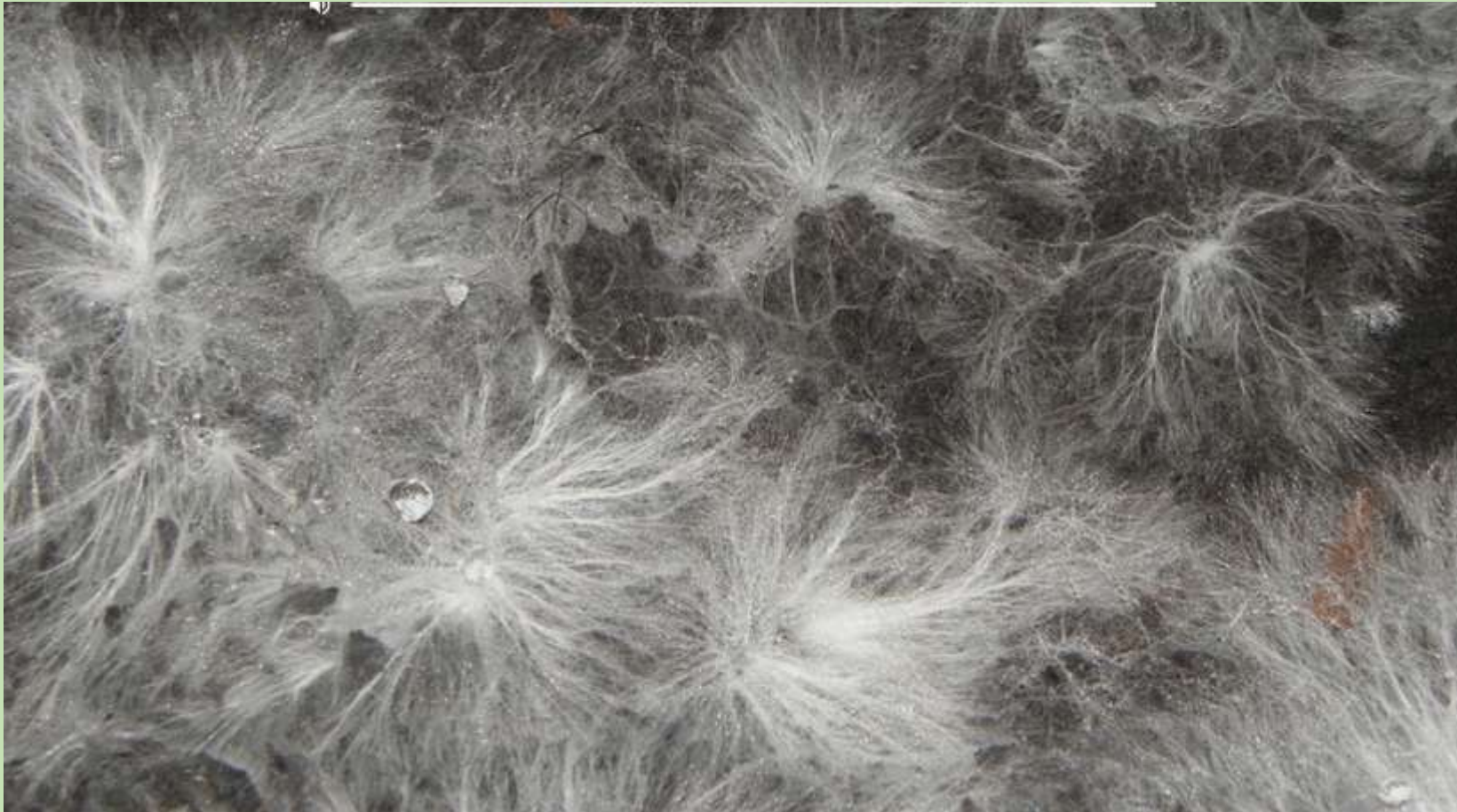
# PLANTS SHARE NUTRIENTS WITH FUNGI



**Hyphae** are extremely small, root-like structures that are the conduit for the exchange of water and nutrients between fungi and plants. They are typically only one cell wide and arranged in long filamentous strings with extensive branching.



# FUNGI SHARE NUTRIENTS WITH PLANTS



The **hyphae** grow into dense mats called **mycelium**. Some scientists have estimated that there are about 200 meters of **mycorrhizal fungi** in one gram of soil.

# FUNGI AND PLANTS SHARE INFORMATION

**Mushrooms** are the fruiting bodies of fungi. And they are only present above ground for a short period of time. But about 90% of known fungi do NOT produce mushrooms.

