Taxonomy

For identification purposes, all biological organisms are placed into groups having common characteristics. The science of identifying which organisms belong to which group is called Taxonomy. Taxonomy has been called "Life's Filing System".

The first taxonomic group to consider when identifying an organism is very broad - e.g. we're looking at a plant. Subsequent groups become more specific, e.g. it's a plant and it grows in water ... it's a plant and it grows in water and it has white flowers. You get the idea. Eventually the plant is assigned a very specific name - it's like a first name and a surname. Did you know that the scientific names of *all organisms* are recorded in Latin? There's good reason. I'll tell you why in a moment.

White Waterlily

European White Waterlily and White Water Rose are two of the many common names for the White Waterlily. So to avoid confusion when dealing with a plant, we rely on its unique scientific name. Waterlilies are in the *Nymphaeacaea* family (pronounced *nim-fee-AY-see-ee*).

The White Waterlily's scientific name is *Nymphaea alba* - *'Nymphaea'* referring to the family name and *'alba'*, Latin for 'white'.

Dec. 2019. Kazakhstan. Michel KZ BL125. Souvenir Sheet from the Series "Water Flowers". The White Waterlily is illustrated in the stamp on the left.

Bosnia-Hercegovina. July 1, 2008. Michel # BA 526. Stamp includes both the common and the scientific name.

A Polish Maxicard with the European White Waterlily. The 1962 commemorative stamp (Scott 1070) shows the typical leaf notch, a flower bud and mature flower. The stamp is 1 in a series of 12 on Protected Flowers. *Nymphaea alba* is clearly indicated in the top left corner

in Polish and Latin.