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Sommario/riassunto	Such is the pressure on teaching time in schools and universities that students are taught less and less of the diversity that is life on this planet. Most students, and indeed most professional biologists that these students become, know far more of cell function than of biodiversity. This text is a profusely illustrated, quick-reference guide to all types of living organisms, from the single-celled prokaryotes and eukaryotes to the multicellular fungi, plants and animals. All surviving

phyla and their component classes are characterised and described, as
are their lifestyles, ecology, relat
