

- situations may commonly involve too large a proportion of taxonomic traits.
2. Examples are cited of likely convergent taxa that would probably be interpreted wrongly by numerical taxonomy, as they have been by conventional taxonomy.
 3. Of these taxa, the rhipiphorid and stylopoidea beetles are dealt with in detail, and their non-cognate relationship is demonstrated mainly by their difference in a minor character, segmentation of the hind tarsus.
 4. Weighting of such characters is covered by a proposed *rule of evolutionary reduction*, considered to be implicit in most phylogenetic arguments. This rule is stated formally for the case of meristic characters. *For macroscopic meristic characters in general, a phylogenetic change in number much more frequently results in a decrease than in an increase.*
 5. Phylogenetic studies ought to benefit from the conscious application of the reduction rule yardstick and from extension of the morphocline concept of Maslin.

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