**Classification**

The classification of fungi is a very difficult task since it presents various problems. The history of classification of fungi can be traced back from the time of herbalists. Fungi are divided by most of the authors into four classes mainly. Of all the classifications, the most standard and widely accepted classification is that adopted by Gwynne- Vaughan and Barnes (1927). According to the septation of the mycelium and the chacracters of the principal spores, they have divided into three main classes such as phycomycetes, ascomycetes and basidiomycetes. Although Fungi Imperfacti has been given the rank of a fourth class but it iwas little known.

Martin (1931,1941) classified fungi into three classes , viz. phycomycetes, ascomycetes and basidiomycetes and two form classes viz. fungi imperfacti and lichens. In1961 he treated fungi as subdivision Ecmycotina which includes three classes viz. phycomycetes, ascomycetes and basidiomycetes and two form classes viz. Lichen and deuteromycetes (fungi Imperfacti)

Bessey(1950) classified fungi into four classes viz. phycomycetes, ascomycetes and basidiomycetes and fungi imperfacti. He include Mycetozoa under fungi separating mycetozoa as asub-class from the fungi, therefore bessey designated all fungi rxcluding Mycetozoa as the true fungi.

Alexopoulos designated the term Mycota for all fungi, and it given in the rank division. The division Mycota is divided into two subdivision viz. Myxomycotina (True Slime moulds) and Eumycotina (True fungi). The sub-division Eumycotina further divided into 8 classes and one form class.

1. Class: Chytridiomycetes
2. Class: Hyphoehytridiomycetes
3. Class: Oomycetes
4. Class: Plasmodiophoromycetes
5. Class: Zygomycetes
6. Class: Trichomycetes
7. Class: Ascomycetes
8. Form Class: Deuteromycetes
9. Class: Basidiomycetes

Jhon Webster (1970,’77) classified fungi following the scheme proposed by Ainsworth (1966), which outlined below

Fungi (Mycota)

Division I. Myxomycota

Class 1. Acrasiomycetes

Class 2. Hydromyxomycetes

Class 3. Myxomycetes

Class 4. Plasmodiophoromycetes

Division II. Eumycota

Sub-division 1) Mastigomycotina

Class 1. Chytridiomycetes

Class 2. Hyphoehytridiomycetes

Class 3. Oomycetes

Sub-division 2) Zygomycotina

Class 1. Zygomycetes

Class 2. Trichomycetes

Sub-division 3) Ascomycotina

Class 1. Hemiascomycetes

Class 2. Plectomycetes

Class 3. Pyrenomycetes

Class 4. Discomycetes

Class 5. Laboulbeniomycetes

Class 6. <oculoascomycetes

Sub-division 4) Basidiomycotina

Class 1. Hemibasidiomycetes

Class 2. Hymenomycetes

Class 3. Gasteromycetes

Sub-division 5) Deuteromycotina

Class 1. Coelomycetes

Class 2. Hyphomycetes

Class 3. Agonomycetes

**Parasexuality**

In conventional method of sexual reproduction and normal sexual cycle the three processes: plasmogamy, karyogamy and meiosis occur in a regular sequence and usually at specified points. But some fungi do not posses conventional method of sexual reproductions and normal cycle.in them, plasmogamy, karyogamy and meiosis takes place in a regular sequence, **but not at specified time or points in the thallus or in the life cycle**. Such cycle is known as **parasexual** cycle and the mechanism is **parasexuality**. It was discovered by Pontecorvo and Roper (1952). The sequence of events in a parasexual cycle is: establishment of heterokaryotic condition during which nuclei of different genotypes coexist side by side, karyogamy , multiplication of diploid nuclei accompanied with occasional mitotic crossing over and simultaneous multiplication of haploid nuclei, occasional meiosis of diploid nuclei, and distribution of both haploid and diploid nuclei. But there are fungi in which both normal sexual cycle and parasexual cycle have been developed.