

# China Unveils Its 2024 Biodiversity Catalog

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The cover for the *Catalog of Life China  
2024 Annual Checklist*.

## 中国生物物种名录2024版 Catalogue of Life China 2024 Annual Checklist



显苞芒毛苣苔  
*Aeschynanthus bracteatus*



丹顶鹤  
*Grus japonensis*



纯黄竹荪  
*Phallus luteus*

LIN Qinwen (left), SONG Huiqiang (center), and WANG Ke (right)



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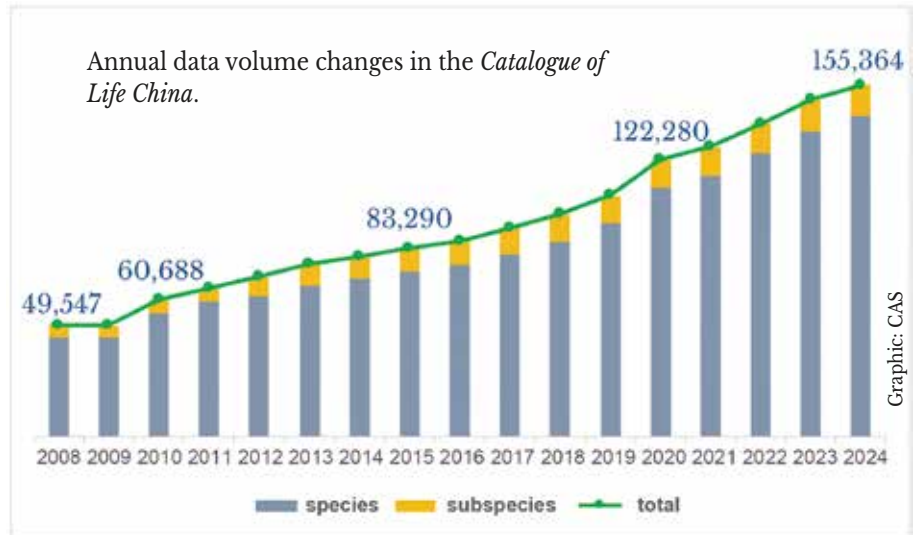
China  
Species 21000

On May 22, 2024, coinciding with the International Biodiversity Day, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) released its “*Catalog of Life China 2024 Annual Checklist*,” marking a significant advancement in documenting China’s rich biodiversity. This comprehensive inventory now encompasses an impressive total of 155,364 species and subspecies, including 141,484 distinct species and 13,880 subspecies, reflecting China’s ongoing commitment to understanding and preserving its natural heritage.

The 2024 edition of the catalog represents a substantial increase from its predecessor, with 6,423 new species and 267 new subspecies added over the past year. The faunal section, particularly the insect chapter, saw the most significant boost, with an astounding 3,275 new beetle species added. Notably, Yunnan and Taiwan provinces have emerged as hotspots for new species discovery, accounting for over 30% of the new additions and highlighting the ecological importance of these regions.

Breaking down the catalog’s contents reveals the vast diversity of life in China. The faunal section leads with 73,862 species and subspecies, including 694 mammals, 1,505 birds, and an impressive 60,769 insects. The floral section follows with 47,474 species and subspecies, of which 36,055 are vascular plants. The section for fungal flora contributes 27,807 species and subspecies, while additional sections extend to protozoans, chromists, bacteria, and viruses, painting a comprehensive picture of China’s biological landscape.

This annual publication serves



**Species 141,484**  
**Subspecies 13,880**  
**Total 155,364**

as more than just a list; it’s a crucial tool for supporting biodiversity research, guiding conservation efforts, and fulfilling China’s commitments to the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. Since its online debut in 2018, the catalog has become an indispensable resource for the scientific community, garnering over 15 million online page views and being cited in more than 1,000 academic publications. The total volume of downloads, exceeding 10 terabytes, underscores its significance in the field of biodiversity studies.

China stands alone as the only

nation publishing such a comprehensive biodiversity catalog annually. This consistent effort provides an unparalleled view of the country’s evolving ecosystems and biodiversity trends. As the world grapples with global challenges like climate change and habitat loss, initiatives like China’s *Catalog of Life* serve as crucial baselines for understanding and protecting the rich tapestry of life on our planet. The 2024 edition not only showcases China’s biodiversity but also reinforces the country’s role in global efforts to document and preserve the world’s biological heritage.