

THE APG IV SYSTEM

The APG IV system, published in 2016, is a modern, mostly molecular-based system of plant taxonomy for flowering plants (angiosperms) developed by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group, recognizing 64 orders and 416 families, including 5 new orders compared to the APG III system.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **What it is:** APG IV is the fourth iteration of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group's classification system, a system that aims to reflect the evolutionary relationships of flowering plants.
- **Focus:** The system focuses on the monophyletic (evolutionary) relationships of plant groups, using molecular data as a primary source of information.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Molecular Basis:** The system relies heavily on molecular data (DNA sequences) to determine relationships between plant groups.
 - **Phylogenetic Approach:** It aims to create a classification that reflects the evolutionary history of flowering plants.
 - **Orders and Families:** The system classifies flowering plants into orders and families, with a focus on accurately reflecting evolutionary relationships at these levels.
 - **New Orders Recognized:** Compared to the APG III system, APG IV recognizes five new orders: Boraginales, Dilleniales, Icaginales, Metteniusales, and Vahliales.
 - **Number of Orders and Families:** The APG IV system recognizes 64 orders and 416 families.
- **Significance:** The APG system has become the standard for plant taxonomy, used by botanists and researchers worldwide.
- **Where to find it:** GBIF has a dataset that includes the APG IV classification.
- **Free PDF:** You can find a PDF of the APG IV classification on ResearchGate