



Academic Press  
Dictionary  
of Science and  
Technology





# Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology

Edited by  
Christopher Morris



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- cryoturbation** *Geology*, disturbance of the soil surface by the action of freezing or of alternate freezing and thawing.
- Cryphaeaceae** *Botany*, a tropical and subtropical family of mostly dull mosses of the order Isobryales that form loose mats on trees and rocks; characterized by creeping stems with numerous short lateral branches that sometimes form pendulous sheets, by lateral sporophytes, and by a single costa ending below the apex.
- cryptis** *Ecology*, the ability of an organism to camouflage and conceal itself through its natural appearance.
- crypt** *Anatomy*, a blind pit or tube that opens onto a free surface.
- crypt-** a combining form meaning "secret" or "hidden," as in *cryptanalysis*.
- cryptanalysis** [krip'tə'nəl'ə'sis] *Linguistics*, an analysis of coded or secret text, including the steps, operations, and procedures required to convert an encrypted message into plain text without prior knowledge of the key employed in the encryption process.
- cryptand** *Organic Chemistry*, a bicyclic or cyclic compound of higher order that surrounds and shields an ion in the center of a molecule.
- cryptate** *Organic Chemistry*, a complex molecule consisting of a central ion surrounded and shielded by a cyclic compound.
- Crypteroniaceae** *Botany*, a monogeneric family of tropical dicotyledonous trees in the order Myrtales, often accumulating aluminum and characterized by opposite, simple leaves and numerous tiny flowers borne in axillary racemes, spikes, or panicles.
- Crythecodiniaceae** *Botany*, a family of marine flagellates of the order Peridiniales, nonphotosynthetic saprophytes that live on rotting large brown algae; only one species is currently known, but evidence points to as yet undescribed species.
- cryptic** [krip'tik] *Zoology*, relating to or describing the ability of an organism to conceal itself by means of coloration and markings that resemble the surrounding environment.
- cryptic coloration** *Zoology*, protective coloration that allows an organism to blend in with its environment and thus remain concealed from predators or prey; often occurring in insects, including such unusual adaptations as the ability of stick insects to match their color to a changing background by moving pigment granules in their epidermal cells.
- cryptic mutant** *Cell Biology*, a cell possessing a mutation that cannot be detected phenotypically.
- cryptic plasmid** *Molecular Biology*, a plasmid having no apparent effect on the phenotype of the cell where it occurs.
- cryptic satellite** *Genetics*, a satellite DNA sequence not identified as such by a separate peak on a density gradient; that is, it remains present in main-band DNA.
- cryptic species** *Systematics*, a species so similar to another that the two are difficult to distinguish from each other. Also, **SIBLING SPECIES**.
- cryptic virus** *Virology*, any inapparent virus, especially one of the Cryptovirus group, which cause no symptoms in plants.
- crypto-** a combining form meaning "secret" or "hidden," as in *cryptography*.
- Cryptoblastidae** *Invertebrate Zoology*, a family of colorless protozoans with two flagella, in the order Kinetoplastida.
- cryptobiosis** *Physiology*, a condition in which all external signs of metabolic activity are absent from a dormant organism.
- cryptobiotic** *Zoology*, describing an organism that typically hides or conceals itself.
- Cryptobranchidae** *Vertebrate Zoology*, the giant salamanders, a family in the suborder Cryptobranchoidea in the order Caudata; generally aquatic and having a flattened body, loose skin, and lidless eyes.
- Cryptobranchoidea** *Vertebrate Zoology*, a suborder in the order Caudata containing the most primitive living salamanders, including the Asiatic and giant salamanders; distinguished by external fertilization and aquatic larva.
- Cryptocerata** *Invertebrate Zoology*, in some classifications, a division of hemipteran insects including the water bugs or Hydrocorisae.
- Cryptochaetidae** *Invertebrate Zoology*, a family of two-winged insects in the subsection Acalypteratae, with small or rudimentary calypters.
- cryptoclastic** *Geology*, describing a clastic rock composed of microscopic finely broken or fragmented particles.
- cryptoclimate** *Engineering*, the temperature and moisture conditions of an enclosed space.
- cryptoclimatology** *Meteorology*, the study of climates of confined spaces.
- Cryptococcaceae** *Mycology*, a former family of fungi belonging to the class Deuteromycetes, including many species pathogenic to humans, such as the genus *Candida*.
- Cryptococcales** *Mycology*, an order of imperfect fungi whose classification is uncertain; it is sometimes classified as belonging to the class Hyphomycetes, was formerly classified under Blastomycetes, and has characteristics that link it to the subdivision Basidiomycotina; its perfect or sexual stage is not known.
- cryptococcal meningitis** *Medicine*, an inflammation of the meninges brought on by the yeastlike organism, *Cryptococcus*.
- cryptococcosis** *Medicine*, a cryptococcus infection that may affect the lungs, skin, and usually the brain, nervous system, and their meninges.
- Cryptococcus** *Mycology*, a genus of yeast fungi belonging to the class Hyphomycetes which includes species pathogenic to humans and other animals, such as *C. neoformans*; its reproduction is characterized by the multilateral budding of cells.
- cryptocrystalline** *Geology*, describing the texture of an aggregate characterized by crystalline constituents too small to be distinguished under an ordinary microscope. Also, **MICROCRYSTALLINE**.
- Cryptodira** *Vertebrate Zoology*, the modern turtles, an infraorder of the reptilian order Testudines containing most living terrestrial and aquatic turtles, tortoises, and terrapins; characterized by the ability to withdraw the neck directly into the shell and a pelvis that is not fused to the shell.
- Cryptodonta** *Invertebrate Zoology*, a subclass (order Nuculoida) of primitive clams in the family Solemyidae, having almost no hinge.
- cryptoexplosion structure** *Geology*, a more or less circular structure formed by a sudden, often explosive, release of energy and showing intense rock deformation unrelated to volcanic or tectonic activity. Also, **cryptoexplosive structure**.
- cryptogram** [krip'tə'gram] *Linguistics*, a message that has been encrypted; i.e., a message whose content is not evident from ordinary interpretation. *Virology*, a descriptive code that is used to record certain basic properties of a virus, including its shape, type and weight of nucleic acid, host range, and vector.
- cryptographic** [krip'tə'grəf'ik] *Linguistics*, 1. of or relating to cryptography, 2. in an encrypted form; using a code or cipher.
- cryptographic algorithm** *Telecommunications*, a set of mathematically expressed rules for enciphering and deciphering data by effecting a series of conversions controlled by the use of a cryptographic key.
- cryptographic bitstream** *Telecommunications*, a stream of bits that is connected with a plain-text message in order to form a cryptogram, or a stream to decode plain text from a cryptogram.
- cryptographic key** *Telecommunications*, a cipher or code that is used to set or adjust cryptographic equipment at a transmission or receiving station so that messages can automatically be enciphered at the transmission station or deciphered at the receiving station.
- cryptography** [krip'tə'grə'fē] *Linguistics*, a branch of communications devoted to the design and use of ciphers, including principles and methods for converting plain text into unintelligible form and converting apparently unintelligible ciphered text into intelligible form, usually by means other than cryptanalysis.
- Cryptograptus** *Paleontology*, a genus of scandent biserial graptoloids in the suborder Glossograptina and family Cryptograptidae; Ordovician.
- cryptohalite** *Mineralogy*,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SiF}_6$ , a white or gray transparent cubic mineral occurring in massive or arborescent forms, having a specific gravity of 2 to 2.01 and a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs scale; dimorphous with bararite; found as a sublimate in coal basins and on Mount Vesuvius.
- cryptology** [krip'təl'ə'jē] *Linguistics*, the branch of cryptography that deals with the hidden, disguised, or encrypted meanings in messages; used in communications security and intelligence.
- cryptomedusa** *Invertebrate Zoology*, the last stage in the reduction of a hydroid medusa to a rudiment having sex cells in the gonophore.
- cryptomelane** *Mineralogy*,  $\text{K}(\text{Mn}^{4+}, \text{Mn}^{2+})_8\text{O}_{16}$ , a gray or black opaque, metallic monoclinic (pseudotetragonal) mineral occurring as massive, fine-grained, porous aggregates, having a specific gravity of 4.3 and a hardness of 1 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale; found as a secondary mineral with pyrolusite and other manganese oxides.
- cryptomenorrhoea** *Medicine*, the occurrence of symptoms of menstruation each month without the flow of blood, as in imperforate hymen.
- cryptomitosis** *Invertebrate Zoology*, cell division occurring in certain protozoans, in which a modified spindle forms and chromatin assembles, but with no apparent chromosome differentiation.
- Cryptomonadaceae** *Botany*, a family of freshwater and marine flagellates of the order Cryptomonadales, characterized by almost equally long flagella attached to a subapical furrow, a laterally compressed cell body, and a variety of pigmentations based on specific physiological conditions.