

*...the general course of evolution [for bacteria] will probably never be known, and there is simply not enough objective evidence to base their classification on phylogenetic grounds... For these and other reasons, most modern taxonomists have explicitly abandoned the phylogenetic approach.*

(Stanier *et al.*, 1976)

*Molecular phylogeneticists will have failed to find the "true tree," not because their methods are inadequate or because they have chosen the wrong genes, but because the history of life cannot properly be represented as a tree.*

(W. F. Doolittle, 1999)