Biodiversity in Forest

Living community in Forest

The living community of forests include the plants and animals. The living organisms can be classified into the following types:

- Producers (or autotrophs)
- Consumers (or heterotrophs) and Saprotrophs
- Decomposers

Producers

Producers (or autotrophs) make their own food from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of sunlight and chlorophyll by a process called photosynthesis. Green plants, algae are producers.

Consumers

The organisms which consume the food made by the producers are called consumers.

- Consumers do not make their own food.
- All animals and humans are consumers.
- Examples man lion cow buffalo, dog, etc. consumers all consumers or heterotrophs can be divided into following types.
 - I. Herbivores
 - II. Carnivores
 - III. Omnivores
 - IV. Saprotrophs

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- The organisms which eat plants or plant products for their food are called herbivores. Goat, cow, deer are herbivores.
- The organisms which eat only flesh of animals as their food are called carnivores. Lion, jackal, hawks, tigers, etc. are carnivores.
- The organisms which eat both plants and animal meat are called **omnivores**. Humans, dog, etc. are omnivores.
- The organisms which derive their food from the dead and decaying animals/ plants are called **saprotrophs** (or saprophytes). Mushrooms, yeast, bacteria are some common saprotrophs.

Decomposers

The organisms which decompose the dead remains of plants and animals to simple compound are called **decomposers.**

Decomposers help in maintaining the supply of nutrients to the growing plants in the forests

Tiny mushrooms and insects, ants, beetles and many microorganisms (called decomposers) exist on the decaying leaves on the forest floor. These organisms and decomposers feed themselves upon the dead plant and animal tissues and convert them into dark coloured material called **humus**. Humus helps in the release of nutrients of the dead and decaying organic matter into the soil