

Figure 1. TAXONOMY OF ELEPHANTS; PREHISTORIC TO MODERN

Kingdom – Animalia

Phylum – Chordata

Class – Mammalia

Subclass – Theria

Metaclass – Eutheria

Superorder – Paenungulate

Orders – Hyracoidea (rock & tree hyraxes)

Mirorder – Tethytheria

Order- Sirenian (manatee, dugong & sea cow)

Order - Proboscidae (elephant)

Family – Moeritheriidae

Family – Numidotheriidae

Family – Barytheriidae

Family – Deinotheriidae

Family – Palaeomastodontidae

Family – Gomphotheriidae

Family – Mammutidae

Family – Stegodontiidae

Family – Elephantidae

Genus – *Primelephas*

Genus – *Mammuthus*

Genus – *Elephas*

Species – *E. maximus*

Subspecies based on geographical location (Fernando, et al., 2000a)

*ceylonicus* (Sri Lanka)

*indicus* (India)

*hengalensis* (Northern India)

*dakamensis* (Southern India)

*hurmanicus* (Myanmar)

*hirsutus* (Thailand)

*sumatranus* (Sumata)

Genus – *Lexodonta*

Species – *L. africana* (African savanna)

Species – *L. cyclotis* (African forest)

Species – *L. cyclotis x africana*

(Wilson, 1993)