**Biocenosis** (from Gr. bios, meaning 'life,' and koinós, meaning 'common') is a biotic community consisting of populations of plant (phytocenosis), animal (zoocenosis), and microbial (microbiocenosis) organisms within a given abiotic environment (biotope). These populations belong to various species but are interconnected by diverse ecological factors and trophic dependencies (food webs), forming a whole that remains in equilibrium. Biocenosis, along with biotope, constitutes an ecosystem.