



**FIGURE 5.6.** Branch rotation does not change the information in a phylogenetic tree. The two trees are the same except the branch leading up to the ancestor of Tip 2 and Tip 3 has been rotated such that Tip 3 is on the left and Tip 2 is on the right. The tree drawings on *left* and *right* are simply different forms of the same tree. It is useful to consider a phylogenetic tree like a mobile: The branches are free to rotate, but the branching patterns never change.