



FIGURE 22.4. In asexual organisms, a species definition based on genealogy is arbitrary. The bars (A, B, C) show alternative groups of individuals that could be defined as species. Even if we demand that each group include all individuals that share a common ancestor, there are still several ways to divide up the genealogy. (The same argument applies if we think of the diagram as a phylogeny of species, rather than a genealogy of individuals: Classification into genera, families, and so on based on the phylogeny is to some extent arbitrary.)