

Definition of Life

The outlook on life is **still an unresolved question**, that has been developing for many years. However, a general definition is generally accepted, which can be simplified into a few points. We call systems that:

- are **limited in time and space**,
- **open** – they exchange energy, substances and information with the environment,
- **material and of a uniform chemical basis** – primarily carbon compounds (nucleic acids and proteins),
- **high organization** – low entropy,
- the ability to **exist independently**,
- **separate maintenance**,
- **separate reproductions**,
- **development**.

The basic unit of all living systems is the **cell**.

 For more information see *Cell theory*.

It is a question of whether to consider *rickettsia* and *chlamydia* as living or non-living. They are not capable of independent life, but have preserved some metabolic pathways.

Viruses, virions, prions and transposons are considered as **non-living** .

Links

- ws:Definice života

Related Articles

- Cell theory

Resources

- NEČAS, Oldřich. *Obecná biologie pro lékařské fakulty*. 3. edition. Jinočany : H+H, 2000. ISBN 80-86022-46-3.