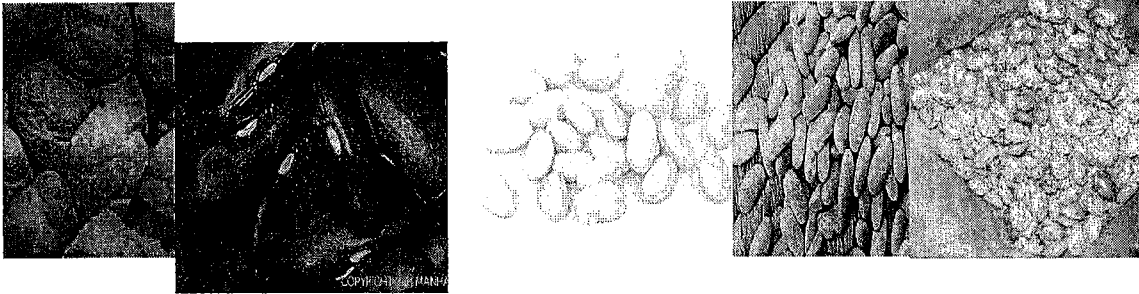


Dichotomous Key

The identification of biological organisms can be greatly simplified using tools such as dichotomous keys. A dichotomous key is an organized set of couplets of mutually exclusive characteristics of biological organisms. You simply compare the characteristics of an unknown organism against an appropriate dichotomous key. These keys will begin with general characteristics and lead to couplets indicating progressively specific characteristics. If the organism falls into one category, you go to the next indicated couplet. By following the key and making the correct choices, you should be able to identify your specimen to the indicated taxonomic level.

Sample key to some common beans used in the kitchen:



- 1a. Bean round
- 1b. Bean elliptical or oblong

Garbanzo bean
Go to 2

- 2a. Bean white
- 2b. Bean has dark pigments

White northern
Go to 3

- 3a. Bean evenly pigmented
- 3b. Bean pigmentation mottled

Go to 4

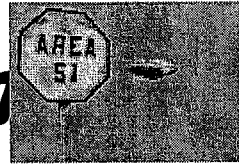
Pinto bean

- 4a. Bean black
- 4b. Bean reddish-brown

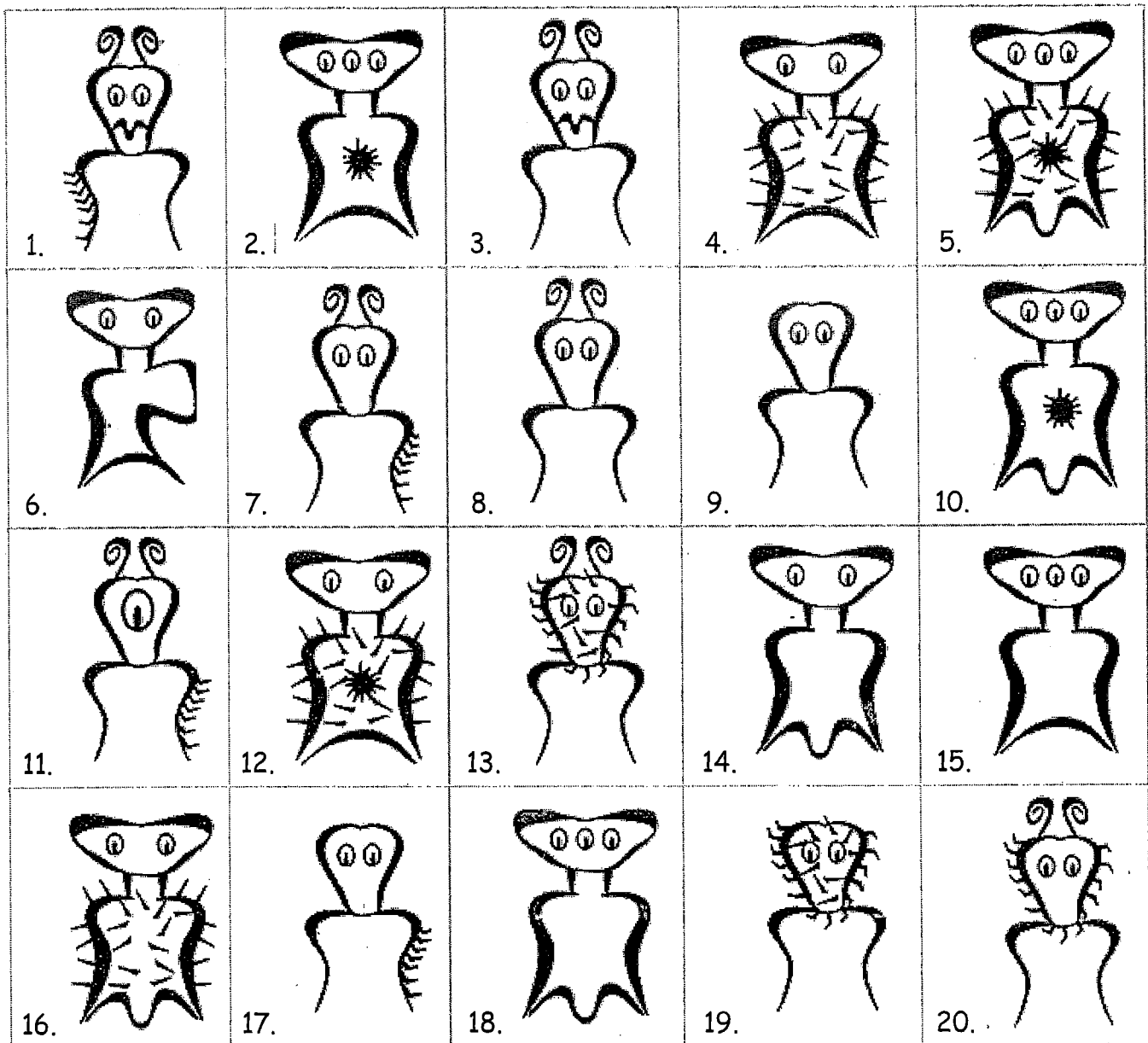
Black bean

Kidney bean

Alien Invasion



Help! Aliens have landed on Earth from another planet. Before scientists can release the aliens, they want to identify and classify them. Use the dichotomous key on the next page to identify these creatures. * Write Full Name Under Each Alien.



A Key to Alien Creatures:

1. a. The creature has a large wide head.....go to 2
b. The creature has a small narrow head.....go to 11
2. a. It has 3 eyesgo to 3
b. It has 2 eyesgo to 7
3. a. There is a star in the middle of its chest.....go to 4
b. There is no star in the middle of its chestgo to 6
4. a. The creature has hair spikes*Broadus hairus*
b. The creature has no hair spikes.....go to 5
5. a. The bottom of the creature is arch-shaped*Broadus archus*
b. The bottom of the creature is M-shaped*Broadus emmus*
6. a. The creature has an arch-shaped bottom*Broadus plainus*
b. The creature has an M-shaped bottom.....*Broadus tritops*
7. a. The creature has hairy spikesgo to 8
b. The creature has no spikes.....go to 10
8. a. There is a star in the middle of its body*Broadus hairystarus*
b. There is no star in the middle of its bodygo to 9
9. a. The creature has an arch shaped bottom*Broadus hairyemmus*
b. The creature has an M shaped bottom*Broadus kiferus*
10. a. The body is symmetrical*Broadus walter*
b. The body is not symmetrical.....*Broadus anderson*
11. a. The creature has no antennaego to 12
b. The creature has antennaego to 14
12. a. There are spikes on the face*Narrowus wolfus*
b. There are no spikes on the facego to 13
13. a. The creature has no spike anywhere*Narrowus blankus*

- b. There are spikes on the right leg*Narrowus starboardus*
- 14. a. The creature has 2 eyes.....go to 15
 - b. The creature has 1 eye.....*Narrowus cyclops*
- 15. a. The creature has a mouth.....go to 16
 - b. The creature has no mouth.....go to 17
- 16. a. There are spikes on the left leg*Narrowus portus*
 - b. There are no spikes at all*Narrowus plainus*
- 17. a. The creature has spikesgo to 18
 - b. The creature has no spikes*Narrowus georgia*
- 18. a. There are spikes on the headgo to 19
 - b. There are spikes on the right leg.....*Narrowus montanian*
- 19. a. There are spikes covering the face*Narrowus beardus*
 - b. There are spikes only on the outside edge of head*Narrowus fuzzus*