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Here is what we're up against when we try to think about a nomenclature for coral reef features of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia:

"The problem of definition of terms and of statements of theory is like the problem of writing a menu. It is rather easy to say what it is one thinks s/he has eaten, rather more difficult to decide what to order, and most difficult to write the menu before the groceries have been delivered from the market, especially if one orders from a whimsical grocer who seldom delivers what you order. In many cases in science, one cannot know beforehand what will be found out, or even what will be interesting at a better informed tomorrow."

Crovitz, 1970.