

Module code

SPB-1201

Type of module

Undergraduate: Biological Sciences – Major Core

Diversity of Life



Modular credits

4

Total student
engagement

56 hours

Prerequisite

None

Anti-requisite

None

Aims

To introduce students to the world of living organisms and their biological classification (3 domains and 5 kingdoms) and the theory of evolution as a unifying theme.

Module learning outcomes (MLO)

On successful completion of this module, a student will be expected to be able to:

MLO 1

Analyse the fundamental mechanisms of evolution, speciation, and extinction, and discuss their role as unifying concepts in biology.

MLO 2

Analyse the classification and evolutionary relationships of living organisms across the 3 domains and 5 kingdoms, and evaluate how phylogeny informs taxonomy.

MLO 3

Analyse and evaluate major microbial, plant, and animal groups to phylum level using diagnostic features and classification keys.

MLO 4

Apply basic phylogenetic and biodiversity analysis methods to interpret data from laboratory and field investigations.

MLO 5

Analyse basic structure-function relationships in representative taxa and relate these to ecological roles and adaptations.

Module contents

Introduction to biodiversity and evolutionary processes

Classification and evolutionary relationships (3 domains and 5 kingdoms)

Microbial diversity I: Archaea and Bacteria

Microbial diversity II: Protists and Fungi

Viruses and acellular life forms

Plant evolutionary origins and non-vascular plants

Vascular plants: Ferns, gymnosperms, and angiosperms

Animal diversity I: Porifera, Cnidaria, Platyhelminthes, Nematoda, Annelida

Animal diversity II: Mollusca, Arthropoda, Echinodermata, Chordata

Human in the evolutionary context

Assessment

60%

Examination

40%

Coursework

Examination
60%

15%

15%

10%

Examination — 60%

Practical reports — 15%

Class tests — 15%

Written assignments — 10%

Formative assessment

Weekly discussion and feedback

Summative assessment

COMPONENT

WEIGHTING

Examination

60%

Coursework

40%

Individual

40%

Practical reports

15%

Class tests

15%

Written assignments

10%

Graduate attributes and skills

Programme learning objectives (PLO) addressed

1

PLO 1 (Fundamental Theoretical Knowledge in Biology)

2

PLO 2 (Application of Scientific Methods and Data Analysis)

3

PLO 3 (Integrated Laboratory, Field, and Technical Skills)

4

PLO 4 (Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills)

Sustainability concept addressed

13

SDG 13 Climate Action

14

SDG 14 Life below Water

15

SDG 15 Life on Land

Digital skills/software used (not limited to)

Microsoft Office software (e.g. Word, Excel)

eLearning platforms (e.g. CANVAS, Zoom)

Micro-credentialling option

No

Stackable towards GenBESTARI Undergraduate Degree Programme or other relevant Lifelong Learning Programmes

No

Document details

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