



Syllabus for BIOR73, Bryophyte Morphology and Identification, 5 credits

1. Course details

Approved by the Education Committee of the Faculty of Science 2013-01-21. The syllabus is valid from 2013-01-21. The course is at the Second cycle (A1N).

2. General information

The course is part of the main field of study in Biology at the Faculty of Science. The course is also a part of a Nordic Masters programme in Biodiversity and Systematics (Nordic Academy of Biodiversity and Systematics Studies – NABIS). The course is optional in a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Science, major Biology. The course is also offered as a single subject course. The language of instruction is English. The course is partially net based and requires full time studies.

3. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to

Knowledge and Understanding

- account for the biodiversity of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) from a phylogenetic perspective
- name widespread species and account for their habitats
- describe elementary traits related to bryophyte biology (morphology, reproduction, genetics, ecology)

Skills and Abilities

- identify bryophytes using determination keys and scientific floras
- apply scientific botanical terminology
- retrieve and analyse taxonomic information from internet-based scientific databases

Judgement and Approach

- evaluate morphological characters based on their potential usefulness in species identification [evaluation]

4. Course content

The overall aim of the course is to provide a broad knowledge about bryophyte diversity and the methods and principles used in species identification.

The course content is divided into two parts:

1. Introduction (net based studies)
This part includes elementary morphology, terminology and phylogeny.
2. Field course
This part trains identification of species from representative habitats with focus on taxonomic groups.

5. Teaching and examination

The course is divided into three modules that each corresponds to approximately one week of studies. The first two modules are net based. These modules contain instructions for textbook studies, lectures, exercises and a written assignment that is turned in by students. This assignment is examined, approved and graded. The third module is a field course, which is ended by an examination that tests the capacity of students to identify species.

Students that have failed to get assignments approved during the regular course period have the opportunity to deliver assignments at close proximity after the regular course termination.

6. Grades

Students are awarded one of the following grades: Distinction, Pass or Fail. To be awarded a Pass on the whole course the student shall have the assignment approved, shall have participated in 80% of the field course, and shall have passed the species identification test. The final grade is determined by a combination of the result from the written assignment and the species identification test.

7. Admission requirements

To be eligible for the course applicants must have 90 higher education credits in Science subjects, including 10 higher education credits in Botany.

8. Literature

According to a list determined by the department, available at least five weeks before start of the course, see the web page for Undergraduate Studies in Biology, <http://www.biol.lu.se/courses>