Université catholique de Louvain

Ecology of individuals and populations

4.0 credits

LBI01351

2010-2011

50.0 h

1q

Teacher(s) :	Schtickzelle Nicolas (compensates Hance Thierry) ; Jacquemart Anne-Laure ; Hance Thierry (coordinator) ; Van Dyck Hans ; Nieberding Caroline ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The first part of the course covers Demecology and population dynamics (15hrs) from data taken from observation and experimentation data of the living world. The notion of population will be seen by the study of intraspecific relations : group effect, competition and mass effect ; intraspecific competition and ecological value. Then the spatial structural notions of populations of analyzed. The demographical phenomenon of natality, growth and death and theories of density variation and numerical regulation of population are covered. In a second part, the behavioural ecology (15hrs) tests hypotheses such as economical decisions of the individual - "trade offs". The themes covered are the following : living in a group, combats and taxation, behavioural ecology of reproduction (sexual conflicts and sexual selection, parental care and reproduction systems as well as alternative reproductive strategies). The third part of the course covers adaptative strategies of plant populations (15hrs). The primary strategies (ressource allocation)will be shown by studying particular cases, for example, of invasive exotic plants. Then strategies linked to reproduction are seen :sexual and asexual reproduction, pollination syndromes, mating system evolution, and seed ecology (dispersion, , seed bank, dormancy, germination).
Aims :	To give an outline of spatial-temporal mechanisms of adaptation of living beings, of the way populations and their regulation systems function. In particular, analysis of population-environment systems are seen and emphasis on correlations between natural history of individuals and population strategies with different changes in their environment. We also want the students to understand the aim and conceptual scene of behaviour ecology (relations between natural selection, ecology and behaviour) and to be able to use these concepts by testing the hypothesis in a decisional way. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".
Cycle and year of study :	 Master [120] in Geography : General Master [120] in Geography : Climatology Bachelor in Biology Master [60] in Environmental Science and Management Master [120] in Environmental Science and Management
Faculty or entity in charge:	BIOL