

POOL OF DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVES

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE (DSE -1): Evolutionary Biology of Plants

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Evolutionary Biology of Plants DSE-1	4	2	0	2	Class XII pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

- This course builds on the fundamental points introduced in the core course on Plant Diversity and Evolution and presents a synthesis of various theories, concepts, evidence and methods to study evolution.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course the students will be able to:

- understand the essential theories in evolution
- differentiate between micro and macroevolution and the forces shaping evolution
- construct phylogenetic trees based on morphological and molecular data
- understand evolution of life.

Unit 1: Historical Perspective of Evolutionary Concepts

4 hours

Pre-Darwinian ideas, Lamarckism, Darwinism, Post-Darwinian era – Modern synthetic theory, Neo-Darwinism

Unit 2: Origin of Life

3 hours

Chemogeny – An overview of pre-biotic conditions and events; experimental proofs to abiotic origin of micro- and macro-molecules. Current concept of chemogeny – RNA first hypothesis. Biogeny – Cellular evolution based on proto-cell models (coacervates and proteinoid microspheres). Evolution of eukaryotes from prokaryotes

Unit 3: Evidences of Evolution

4 hours

Paleobiological– Concept of Stratigraphy and geological timescale; fossil study
Anatomical & Embryological – Vestigial organs; homologous and analogous organs (concept of parallelism and convergence in evolution)
Taxonomic –Transitional forms/evolutionary intermediates, living fossils
Phylogenetic – morphology, protein (Cytochrome C) and gene (Globin gene family) based

Unit 4: Microevolution and Macroevolution

8 hours

Hardy Weinberg equilibrium; Founder effect, Natural and artificial selection. Levels of selection.

Inferring phylogenies- Gene trees, species trees; Patterns of evolutionary change; Adaptive radiation, Evolution and development (evo-devo); Biodiversity- Estimating changes in biodiversity; Taxonomic diversity through the Phanerozoic era.

Unit 5. Forces of Evolution

3 hours

Mutation, Gene flow, Selection, Genetic Drift, Co-adaptation and co-evolution, Anthropogenic activities, Extinction (in brief)- Periodic and Mass-scale – Causes and events.

Unit 6. Speciation

4 hours

Species concept, Modes of speciation – Allopatric; sympatric; peripatric; Patterns of speciation – Anagenesis and Cladogenesis; Phyletic gradualism and Punctuated equilibrium (Quantum evolution); Basis of speciation – Isolating mechanisms.

Unit 7. Evolution of Land Plants

4 hours

Origin of land plants – Terrestrial algae and Bryophytes; alternation of generations. Early vascular plants – Steelar evolution; Sporangium evolution; seed habit and evolution of seed. Angiosperms – Phylogeny of major groups.

Practicals

60 hours

1. Study of different types of fossils, connecting links/transitional forms and Living fossils (Specimens/slides/photographs)
2. Sampling of quantitative characters (continuous and discontinuous) in a population (height, weight, number of nodes etc)
3. Study of adaptive strategies (colouration, co-adaptation and co-evolution); (Specimens/photographs)
4. Calculations of genotypic, phenotypic and allelic frequencies from the data provided
5. Simulation experiments using coloured beads/playing cards to understand the effects of Selection and Genetic drift on gene frequencies
6. To study and interpret Phylogenetic trees (reading and using trees) - minimum of three examples.

Suggested Readings:

1. Campbell, N.A., Reece J.B., Urry L.A., Cain M.L., Wasserman S.A., Minorsky P.V., Jackson, R.B. (2020). Biology. San Francisco, SF: Pearson Benjamin Cummings.
2. Ridley, M. (2004). Evolution. III Edn. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.
3. Hall, B. K., Hallgrimson, B. (2008) Strickberger's Evolution. IV Edn. Jones and Barlett.
4. Zimmer, C., Emlen, D. J. (2013). Evolution: Making Sense of Life. Roberts & Co.
5. Futuyma, D. (1998). Evolutionary Biology. III Edn. Sinauer Assoc. Inc.
6. Barton, Briggs, Eisen, Goldstein and Patel. (2007). Evolution. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.
7. Nei, M., Kumar S. (2000). Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics. Oxford University Press, New York.
8. Futuyma, J. D., Kirkpatrick, M. (2017). Evolution, 4th Ed. Sinauer, Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates.