UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

# BIO705, Degree project in Biodiversity and Systematics, 30,0 higher education credits

Examensarbete i biodiversitet och systematik, 30.0 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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## 1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences on 2012-10-08 to be valid from 2012-09-01.

*Field of education:* Science 100 %
*Department:* Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

## 2. Position in the educational system

This course is given within NABiS - Masters in Biodiversity and Systematics but is also available as a stand-alone course.
This course is the degree project for a two-year masters degree

| *Main field of studies* | *Specialization* |
|---|---|
| Biology | A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits) |

## 3. Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course a Bachelors degree in Biology, Molecular biology or Environmental sciences with focus on biology is required.In addition the courses BIO401 Alphataxonomical Principles (5 ects) given by Gothenburg University and 1BG393 Fundamental and molecular systematics (10 ects) given by University of Uppsala, and available within NABiS - Nordic Masters Programme in Biodiversity and Systematics, or equivalent courses, must be completed.

## 4. Course content

The course involves an in-depth contact with research on biodiversity and systematics. The student performs, under the supervisor's guidance, a scientific project, which may consist of theoretical or experimental work. Planning, execution and completion of the project must take place in an independent way, and the work must include studies of specialized literature in the field.

Three weeks after course start, at the lastest, the student should hand in a synopsis describing the contents of the planned project in the form of questions to be asked and the appropriate background to motivate them.
The thesis is presented in writing in the form of a an essay or a scientific paper as well as orally at a seminar at which the work is defended. The opponent is a fellow student at the same level of education.
A series of seminars in presentation techniques, mainly aimed at oral and popular scientific presentation is included in the course. Those who wish can also be trained in written presentation technique.
The student is otherwise expected to participate in the department seminar series and relevant group meetings.
To be registered on the course, the project must be approved by the examiner.

## 5. Learning outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- •formulate scientific objectives relevant for the subject and be able to explain what they entail
- •describe the theoretical background to the chosen topic
- •independently plan and carry out a theoretical or experimental study within given time limits
- •justify the methods used in relation to the objectives of the work
- •handle references properly according to established systems

*Skills and abilities*

- •in practice collect data to test the hypotheses relevant for the chosen topic
- •independently search for literature relevant for the chosen topic
- •present scientific data (own or from literature) in adequate table/figure format
- •interpret, analyze and discuss own results in relation to information found in relevant scientific publications
- •compile a report according to given guidelines using target-adapted scientific language

*Judgement and approach*

- •have a scientific approach to their own or other's research
- •evaluate the relevance and utility of research results from a general biological perspective

## 6. Literature

Kurslitteraturen fastställs individuellt för varje student i samråd med handledare och examinator.

## 7. Assessment

The work leads to a thesis report that should be written in English. A summary of the findings aiming for public outreach should be included and may be written in English or Swedish. The project and the achieved results will be presented orally at a seminar. The students should also carry out an opposition towards fellow student's work in accordance with established guidelines.
The course is considered completed when the students in writing as well as orally has presented their research and demonstrated knowledge and skills that, in relation to the temporal extent of the course, is considered to be of a quality that the examiner perceives as approved. In addition, the student must have delivered a synopsis, have participated in the series of seminars on presentation techniques, and the opposition must be completed.

Synopsis: delivered in writing and presented orally to the group (0 ects)

Thesis: delivered in writing in accordance with given guidelines (30 ects)

Opposition: in accordance with given guidelines (0 ects)

## 8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG).

Synopsis and opposition must be approved, but grading is made on the thesis and the oral presentation of it.

## 9. Course evaluation

An opportunity to submit a written course evaluation will be given at the end of the course. Next year's students will be notified about any change made as a reaction to the evaluation.

## 10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English.