



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ecosystem Services (supporting)

2324-1-F0601Q109-F0601Q112M

Aims

This course will focus on the practical knowledge of shrubs and trees and the understanding of their importance in urban vegetation for ecosystem functioning. Specifically, by the end of the term, students should be able to: 1) master the main notions in urban botany; 2) identify the main shrub and tree species occurring in the urban context, understanding their potential for reforestation, phyto-technological applications and biodiversity protection; 3) develop critical and analytical skills for the practical application of the acquired knowledge; 4) communicate their understanding of the topics presented using accurate scientific language and technical terminology; 5) read the scientific literature and deepen the main topics.

Contents

The overall aim of the course is to provide practical tools for vegetation assessment and analysis in urban and periurban settings. The student will be trained to be able to respond to practical questions like: 1) What is the taxonomic composition of an urban/suburban green space types? 2) What is the actual contribution of each species to the whole vegetation? 3) In which way the vegetation is spatially structured? 4) Are taxonomic composition and structural complexity of vegetation similar within diverse urban/suburban green space types? 5) What is the relationship between vegetation structural complexity and taxonomic composition? The lab will be carried out both outside (field trips) and indoor (lab).

Detailed program

Introduction; flora and vegetation; floristic assessment; dichotomous keys tree and shrub identification; biological forms: hydrophytes, elophytes, geophytes, hemiptophytes, chamaephytes, phanerophytes; phytosociological analysis: analytical phase; the vegetation assessment: vertical and horizontal structure; analytical phase:

calculation of vegetation composition indices (i.e. structural and biological); determination of the specific contribution; calculation of the Shannon-Wiener diversity index.

Statistical analysis: a very brief introduction to R, a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics; introduction to* vegan and *BiodiversityR* packages for statistical analysis of biodiversity and ecological communities.

Prerequisites

Botany, Plant Physiology.

Teaching form

Lecture (2 credits)

Textbook and teaching resource

- Ubaldi Davide - Guida allo studio della flora e della vegetazione (2012) CLUEB Bologna.
- Grossoni P., Bruschi P., Bussotti F., Selvi F. (2018) – Trattato di Botanica forestale. 1. Parte Generale e Gimnosperme. CEDAM Scienze Naturali Wolters Kluwer. Milano.
- Grossoni P., Bruschi P., Bussotti F., Pollastrini M., Selvi F., 2020. Trattato di Botanica forestale. 2. Angiosperme. CEDAM Scienze Naturali Wolters Kluwer. Milano.
- Reading material provided by the teachers.

Semester

Second

Assessment method

Oral

For the exam, students will discuss a topic on a case-study based on specific topics exposed during the course. The accurate use of scientific language to explain the topics and the ability to relate them will also be evaluated.

Office hours

By appointment: werther.guidinissim@unimib.it ; giovanni.zecca@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | CLIMATE ACTION
