

4.00 credits

30.0 h + 24.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Wesselingh Renate ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	A basic knowledge of ecology (e.g. LBIO1117) is required for this course and ideally also some knowledge of evolution (LBIO1110). <i>The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.</i>
Main themes	The theoretical part of the course looks at both historical and ecological explanations for present-day distributions, and the practical work aims to illustrate the diversity in species composition in different biogeographical zones in Belgium.
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : 1 Discuss the ancient and current causes of the geographical distribution of living beings and their groupings and the dynamics of this distribution
Evaluation methods	Theoretical part: written exam with open questions. Practical work: each student should participate in at least one excursion and a single report should be written for all excursions where the student was present. The report should be handed in before a set date and it will be evaluated. For the whole course, the final note is calculated as follows: 0.80 * theoretical part + 0.20 * practical report.
Teaching methods	The theoretical parts consist of lectures. The practicals are field excursions of a full day each, at the end of the semester (on Fridays in week 10, 11 and 12).
Content	Theoretical course (30 h): Historical biogeography (15 h) Historical factors that influence present-day distributions: continental drift, climate change, mass extinctions; global distribution of diversity at higher taxonomic levels; phytogeographical kingdoms and zoogeographical provinces; centres of origin; vicariance; long-distance dispersal; ice ages; Quaternary phylogeography; glacial refugia; diversification. Ecological biogeography (15 h) Patterns of biodiversity: counting species, gradients of biodiversity, hotspots, diversity in time (succession, climax), richness and diversity. Patterns of distribution: geographical range, methods to represent distribution ranges on maps, effects of scale, limits to distributions, overcoming the barriers, types of connections, relictual distributions, endemism, dispersal, invasions, migration, the ecological niche, niche overlap, fundamental and realized niche. Communities and ecosystems: community richness, alpha, beta, gamma, and delta richness, diversity index, closed and open communities, plant growth forms, plant formations, biomes, zonal vegetations, arid regions, interzonal vegetations, predictive models. Island biogeography : types of islands, arriving on an island, species-area relationships, surviving on an island, the Theory of Island Biogeography, evolution and speciation on islands, adaptive radiation, insularity syndromes. The practical work consists of 24 h = 3 field excursions to visit different biogeographical regions in Belgium.
Inline resources	Moodle website for LGEO1332
Bibliography	Cox, C.B. & P. D. Moore (2005). Biogeography, an ecological and evolutionary approach (7th edition). Blackwell Publishing
Other infos	A basic knowledge of ecology (e.g. LBIO1117) is required, as well as some notion of biological evolution (e.g. LBIO1110).
Faculty or entity in charge	GEOG

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Minor in Scientific Culture	MINCULTS	4		
Minor in Development and Environment	MINDENV	4		
Minor in Geography	MINGEOG	4		
Bachelor in Geography : General	GEOG1BA	4	LBIO1117	