

Insect ecology (3 credits) 001.2.3101

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Course description: Insects are among the most diverse animal groups with a huge impact on ecosystems and human wellbeing. This course will cover fundamental questions in ecology, emphasizing ideas, hypotheses, and insights related to the ecology of insects. It will provide a foundation in basic ecological concepts and the remarkable world of insects.

Course structure: 2 hours lecture and 2 hours laboratory exercises demonstrating aspects of insect biology, ecology, and behavior.

Assessment:

Exercises	40%
Participation in class and discussion	10%
Final exam	50%

Topics:

- Introduction, main groups
- Behavioral ecology
- Plant-insect interactions
- Predator-prey interactions
- Parasite-host interactions
- Competition and facilitation
- Mutualism
- Sociality
- Population growth
- Life history
- Foodwebs and communities
- Diversity
- Global patterns

