

BTNY202: Plant and Fungal Diversity

Teaching Staff: Dr Janice Lord and Dr David Orlovich

This course explores patterns of plant and fungal diversity with a particular emphasis on New Zealand. We begin with an overview of systematics then venture into the amazing Kingdom of fungi where you will gain skills to describe new species. The second half of the course investigates the evolution of the New Zealand flora, and island floras generally, breeding system and lifestyle diversity, including carnivory and parasitism, and methods for assessing and conserving plant diversity.

LECTURES

Section I (13 lectures)

Fungal diversity and systematics

Section II (13 lectures)

Plant diversity and adaptation

FIELD TRIPS

- Dunedin Botanic Gardens
- Dunedin Townbelt
- Weekend day trip to Leith Saddle

LABORATORIES

Fungal phylogenetics project (6 Labs)

How to look at plants: leaves, flowers, bryophytes and graminoids (4 Labs)

Plant Diversity project (2 Labs)

ASSESSMENT

Fungal Phylogeny project 20%; Mid course Examination 30%; Plant Diversity project 20%; Final Examination 30%