

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

and

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Division of Biological Sciences

MSc/Diploma

The Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants

Principles, Practice and Management

This new one-year course, bridging traditional and modern approaches, equips biologists, conservationists and ecologists with a high level of skill in pure and applied plant taxonomy, a wide knowledge of plant biodiversity and its investigation, combined with instruction in the function, management and funding of taxonomic collections and institutes.

The following major areas are covered:

- Functions and philosophy of taxonomy
- Evolution and biodiversity of plant groups
- Adaptive radiation in angiosperms
- Elements and origins of biodiversity
- Plant geography and biodiversity
- Introduction to selected environments
- Surveys and monitoring
- Expeditions and plant collecting
- Production and use of taxonomic tools
- Handling and processing data by computer
- Taxometrics and cladistics
- Nomenclature of wild and cultivated plants
- Artificial selection, breeding strategies and genetic manipulation
- Tissue culture and micropropagation
- Chemical estimation of variation
- Managing and funding taxonomic institutes
- Herbarium curation
- Taxonomic libraries
- Curation of living collections
- Public services and public relations

There are also workshops or training sessions on identification, cytology, micro-morphological and anatomical methods, computing, numerical taxonomy, molecular methods, herbarium and horticultural techniques, and bibliographic methodology.

A programme of visits to other institutes and fieldwork includes a 10-day Mediterranean field course.

MSc students proceed to a 5-month research project in April, leading to submission of a written dissertation in September; Diploma students finish in June following a 2-month project.

Entry requirements: university degree or equivalent in a biological or environmental science; evidence of proficiency in English.

Further details and application forms from: Giles Laverack, Institute of Ecology and Resource Management, University of Edinburgh, School of Agriculture Building, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG, UK. Tel: 031 667 1041. Fax: 031 667 2601. Closing date for October 1994 entry is 31 March 1994.

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