

Curso Ciencia Ciudadana en Ecología, 14 - 18 Octubre 2013

Universidad Católica del Norte, Coquimbo, Chile

Course aims:

- To give students hands-on experience of biological recording and species identification using the citizen science platform iSpotnature.org
- To initiate an iSpot user community in Chile
- To add 1,000 records of at least 100 common local species to iSpot to provide an identification resource that will be useful in education and conservation

Who is the course suitable for?

- Postgraduate students in any area of whole-organism biology including ecology, environmental science, etc.
- Anyone with a good knowledge of local flora or fauna

Draft programme

	am	pm
Day 1	Introduction to iSpot: recording of species; ecological interactions; iSpot keys for identification and how to make your own; iSpot quizzes. Review of identification resources available in the group, in the library and on the web.	Form small groups of 2-4 students, each to select 2 recording projects. Local practice recording on or near campus. Development of project plans
Day 2	Fieldwork / trip 1 – Parque Nacional Fray Jorge	
Day 3	Fieldwork / trip 2 – Humedales y Intermareales de Coquimbo	
Day 4	Fieldwork / trip 3 – Punta de Choros	
Day 5	Presentation of results by each group. Evaluation.	Discussion and feedback

Staff

Prof Jonathan Silvertown, The Open University, UK.

We shall need experts to help with ID in the various habitats visited. Ideally these will be signed up in advance. Some should be local, but others can work via the website as observations come in.

Preparation required

Our new version of iSpot (ver 3) will be released a month or two before this course. The new version will allow a Spanish language version to be produced by volunteers. This should happen well in advance of the course to make sure that it is ready in time.

Equipment to bring

If you have any of the following equipment, bring it with you:

Android mobile phone with web access or a digital camera.

A laptop for use in the lab (PCs will be available)

Any field guides or identification aids you have to organisms in the area.

Binoculars

Clothing and footwear suitable for fieldwork

Maximum number: 15 students

Taxonomic experts confirmed:

Gina Arancio – Plantas terrestres

Erasmus Macaya – Algas marinas

Moises Aguilera – Invertebrados intermareales

Guillermo Luna - Aves

Consultas e Inscripciones

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