



**The Open University of Sri Lanka  
Department of Botany**

**STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET – 2021 / 2022  
DIVERSITY OF PLANTS – BYU3500**

Dear Student,

Diversity of Plants (BYU3500) is a Botany Course Unit at Level 3 and will be conducted in both first and second semesters in the academic year 2021/2022.

**Printed Material**

The printed course material of this course consists of Six (06) books and a Laboratory manual with report sheets.

The 06 books include,

1. Unit I – Viruses, Bacteria and Cyanobacteria
2. Unit II - Fungi
3. Unit III - Algae
4. Unit IV – Non Vascular Land Plants
5. Unit V – Seedless Vascular Plants
6. Unit IV - Gymnosperms & Angiosperms

Please collect the above Course material and the Laboratory manual from the dispatch centers at CRC, KRC, MRC, ARC, BRC and JRC on the day you register for the course. If you were unable to collect on that day, please collect them as early as possible.

**Day Schools**

Eight (08) Day Schools including one (01) Compulsory day school (CDS) and one (01) **Revision Day School (RDS)** have been scheduled to cover up the printed text and the laboratory manual. The day schools will cover the course material provided. Your questions and queries regarding the assigned units will also be discussed during these day schools. Day schools at CRC will be conducted in Sinhala, English and Tamil media (KRC and MRC and ARC only in Sinhala and BRC, JRC only in Tamil).

**Academic Activities of the Course**

Please refer the Departmental time table for the scheduled activities for the **First Semester**.

Second semester activities will be informed you at the end of first semester.

### **Practical Component**

The course includes a **compulsory practical session** spreading over five (5) consecutive days and Rs. 500.00 is charged for this practical course. Practical sessions are conducted only at CRC, KRC and MRC.

### **Reservation of Practical groups**

You are required to **reserve** your desired Practical Group at the registration desks, since First Semester activity schedule is in progress. Reservation of practical groups for second semester can be done later. Please note that you **MUST** attend the practical group **you reserved**. **Only the students registered for a particular group will be taken in for practicals** and only mutual changes within groups are possible. Please note that if there are no students signed up for a group, this group will be cancelled from the time table.

### **Field Visit**

A field excursion to National Botanic Garden at Peradeniya will be arranged towards the end of the second semester and is tentatively scheduled for the end of the second semester. Details will be sent to you in due course.

### **Assessment of the Course**

Your performance in the course will be assessed by the **Continuous Assessment Tests (CAT)** and a **Final Examination (FE)**. You are required to get **minimum of 35 marks** as your OCAM (over all continuous assessment mark) to be eligible to sit the Final Examination.

Three (03) Theory tests (1 Open Book + 2 No Book Tests) and one **Practical Test** are planned for this course. All theory assessment tests are of one hour duration. **Practical Test (PT)** is also of one hour duration and will be conducted on the last day of your practical session.

Your OCAM (Continuous Assessment Mark) will be computed only if you:

- Obtain **30 %** or more in the Practical Assessment Test
- 100 % attendance at practical sessions
- Submit a perfectly completed practical record on or before the stipulated date

Please note that the Home Based Assignment attached to this document and the Field visit will also be assessed and marks will be added to the **second NBT** as follows.

Home based assignment	- 05
Field trip	- 05
<u>NBT II</u>	<u>- 90</u>
	100

However, the home based assignment and the field visit will not be considered sometimes, depending on the pandemic situation of the country. Also there will be some changes in the calculation of marks for field visit and home based assignments for NBT-II.

We will put notices in LearnOUSL for changes in any existing criteria mentioned in this information sheet. Please keep on checking the LearnOUSL for BYU3500 for more information.

Some of the Continuous Assessment Tests will be held online and some will be held onsite. The information of all the changes of (DSCs, CATs) will be stated in the master time table and LearnOUSL.

### **Eligibility for the Final examination**

In order to be eligible to sit the Final Examination, you are required to obtain a minimum of 35 marks as your OCAM.

**OCAM is the average of the best two Assessment Tests (OBT, two NBTs and PT)**

Eligibility Lists will be displayed in the Departmental Notice Board at all Regional Centers.

### **Final Examination**

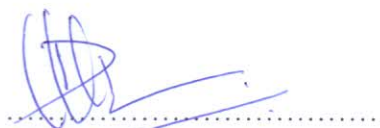
One theory paper (with two parts) of 3 hour duration and consist of short answer questions, Structured Essay type questions and Essay type questions.

Overall Mark (OM) will be computed as follows. FEM is the marks for the Final Examination.

**OM = 60% FEM + 40% CAM**

To clarify any of your academic problems related to this course, please feel free to contact any of the Coordinators.

Hope you enjoy studying this course.



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Dr. H.B.P. Sandani  
Co- coordinator



# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

## DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

### BYU3500 – DIVERSITY OF PLANTS - 2021/2022

#### Home Based Practical Assignment

#### Welcome to the Department of Botany

As you have been informed earlier, we have designed a home based exercise for you to complete before you come to the laboratory session. This assignment will assess your skills on observing nature and collecting specimens on your own. Please read the exercise given below.

Just look around! The environment in which you live is full of different types of plants. Observe their habits (morphology) and the habitats (environment in which they grow).

These plants may belong to different divisions as given in your theory books. They can be fungi or bryophytes, psilopsids, lycopsids, ferns, gymnosperms or angiosperms.

Collect your specimens in sealed poly bags with wet swab of cotton wool and with a tag indicating your Reg. no. and name. You can even write the name of the specimen if you wish with classification

**Please bring two specimens at least from three divisions when you attending the practical group as chosen by you (altogether six specimens only).**

You will be given 5% marks and that would be counted for eligibility as indicated in your information sheet.

Please report the necessary details regarding the specimen according to the example in the table given below and bring with your specimens.

Example

Name	Division	Morphology	Habitat
1. <i>Nephrolepis</i>	Ferns (pteropsida)	Circinate vernation, pinnate leaves, sori on the lower surface of the leaf, erect plant, stem is a rhizome and rhizoids present etc.	Shady moist habitat
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			