

BIO 420 Native and Introduced Plants of the Galapagos

An introductory intensive course related to the unique vegetation and introduced flora of the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. We will discuss current conservation measures being used to control the threats affecting native flora, the future prospects for conserving indigenous plants and for ensuring their rational utilization.

Course Contents

- Introduction to the course (the Galapagos archipelago, natural history of the Galapagos, perspectives of the course.)
- The indigenous flora and vegetation.
- Evolution, phytogeography, ecology and examples of adaptive radiation of the Galapagos flora.
- Research and management in the Galapagos: some botanical considerations.
- Threats to native flora (i.e., land use practices, invasive animals, invasive plants.)
- Combined effects of land use practices and invasive organisms.
- The role of plants in the local economy and development of the local population.
- Plants in colonized zones.
- Plant conservation programs and future prospects of conservation.