

Ethnobotany Lab 7.

Three ages of plants

March 31th, 2011

Background

In the greenhouse, we have twelve species of cultivated plants: (1) pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo***, Cucurbitaceae); (2) pansy (*Viola tricolor*, Violaceae); (3) dill (*Anethum graveolens***, Umbelliferae); (4) broccoli (*Brassica oleracea**, Cruciferae); (5) marigold (*Tagetes erecta***, Compositae); (6) eggplant (*Solanum melongena**, Solanaceae); (7) basil (*Ocimum basilicum**, Labiatae); (8) beet (*Beta vulgaris*, Amaranthaceae); (9) green beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris***, Leguminosae); (10) red pepper (*Capsicum annuum***, Solanaceae); (11) spinach (*Spinacia oleracea***, Amaranthaceae); (12) sunflower (*Helianthus annuus**, Compositae). Most of them are almost or complete mature since they already flowering (**) or developed flower buds (*).

You should remember these plants as a seed and as a seedling (see your reports from labs 1 and 3).

Assignment

The goals of today's lab are:

1. Characterize “your” developed plant in the same way as you did it previously for herbarium samples
2. Take “your” and any other plant and produce the comparison table for these two plants on three stages of development: (1) seed, (2) seedling and (3) mature (or almost mature) plant
3. Answer questions listed in the end of assignment

The example of comparison table:

Stage	Organ	<i>Plant_1_name</i>	<i>Plant_2_name</i>
Seed	Seed cover	Black	White
...

Questions to answer

1. On which stage plants are more different? Why?
2. Everything was planted together, but now we see that some species are quite ahead of others. Why? Explain.
3. Which of two plants listed in your table is easier for cultivation? Please explain.