

Identiplant

plant identification course for beginners in serious botany



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NEW TUTORS ARE WELCOME

Could you be a Tutor? [See job description and qualifications](#)



Want to know more?

[See the Introduction](#)

Is the level right for you?

[See the Sample unit](#)

How much will it cost?

[See Fees and Application](#)

Apply to be a student

[Fill in the application form](#)

Could you be a Tutor?

[See The Tutor's Role](#)

Contact us

enrolment@identiplant.co.uk

Course Log In

The Identiplant on-line course is now closed for maintenance.

Tutors and students will receive an email when the site re-opens

Report a Log In problem

The online course is supported by the BSBI and the FSC.

It is available to anyone throughout Britain and Ireland.

The course is for people who may know plenty of plants

BUT

have learnt names from other people or by matching pictures

do not read descriptions fully because terms are incomprehensible

rely heavily on flowers rather than leaves or fruits

do not know how to use a key

use English rather than scientific names.

**The 'big flora', without pictures, might as well
be in a foreign language.**

Learning outcomes are to:

- 1. learn key diagnostic features of important plant families**
- 2. become familiar with botanical terminology**
- 3. improve observational skills**
- 4. become confident in using a flora**
- 5. develop the critical faculty necessary for accurate ID.**

Learning the names of plants is not on this list!

But surely it isn't possible to teach observational skills online?

The trick is to get students to find common plants and to describe their diagnostic features in such a way that an expert is sure that they have found the right species.

The expert is the student's tutor – a BSBI member with good local knowledge.

“ Getting individual feedback is such a luxury! “

The material is delivered in 15 units, one per fortnight, Feb – August

1. Classification & names

2. Terminology

3. Keys

4. The Cabbage family

5. The Buttercup family

6. The Lily family

7. The Campion family

8. The Carrot family

9. The Pea family

10. The Rose family

11. The Deadnettle family

12. The Figwort family

**13. Some small families & how to
prepare voucher specimens**

14. The Daisy family

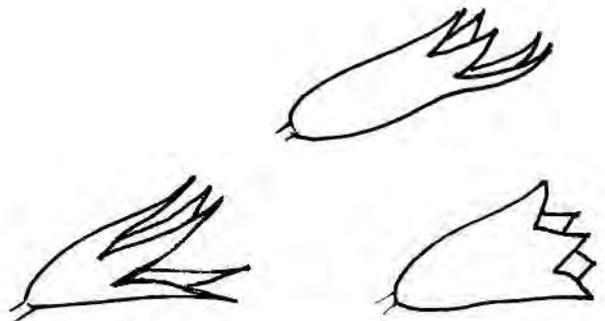
15. The Orchid family

Online delivery makes presentation very easy.

There are plenty of pictures.



Forked hairs
visible with a
lens. Look at
leaf edge.





Certificate of completion

A Student

has successfully completed both fieldwork and assignments in the

 **Identiplant**

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November
2014



Supported by BSBI and FSC



Where are we now?

**69 students enrolled in 2013; 20 completed in one year (29%)
14 more completed in 2014. Final completion rate 49%.**

**134 students enrolled in 2014; 57 completed in one year (43%).
24 more completed in 2015. Final completion rate 60%.**

133 students enrolled in 2015. 54 completed this year (41%).

There were 26 tutors in 2013.

There were 50 in 2014 and 60 in 2015.

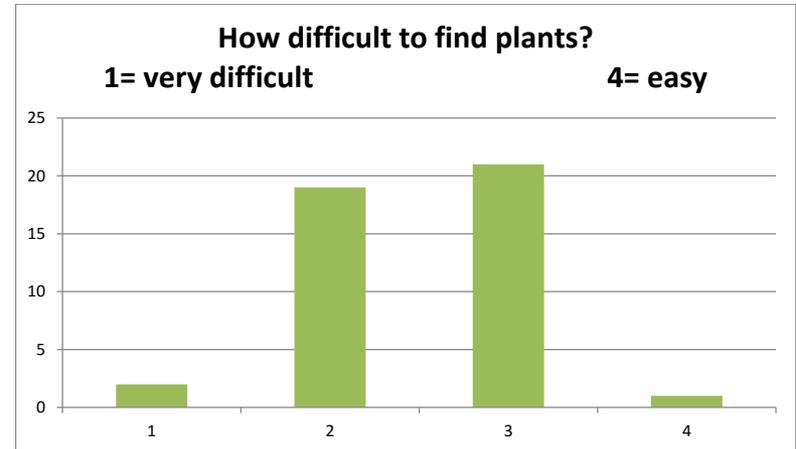
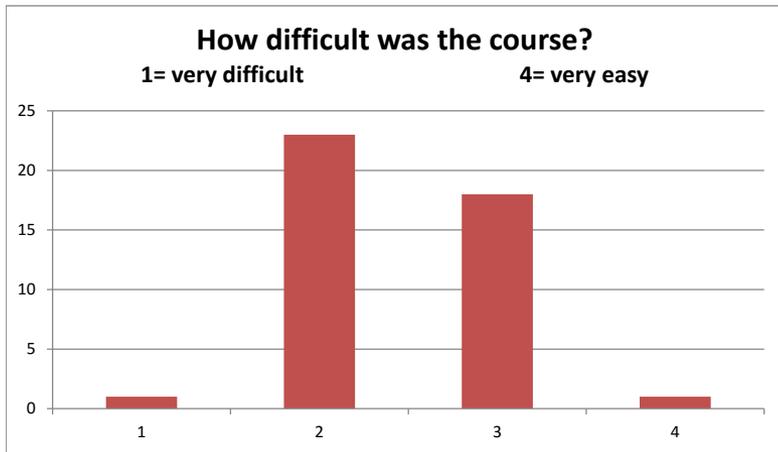
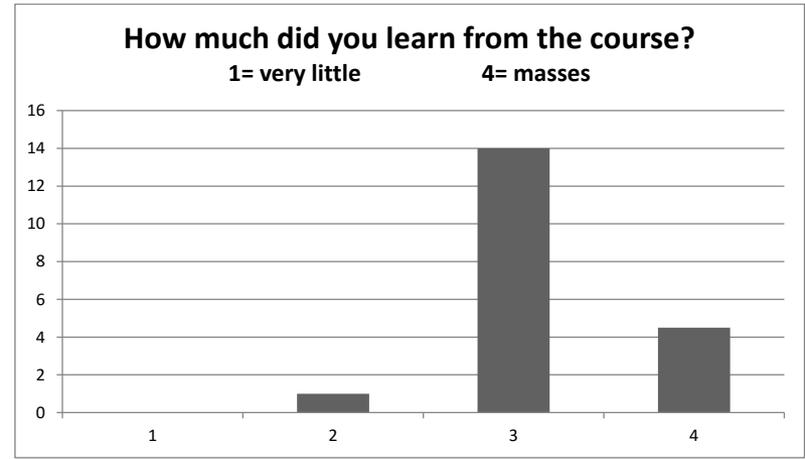
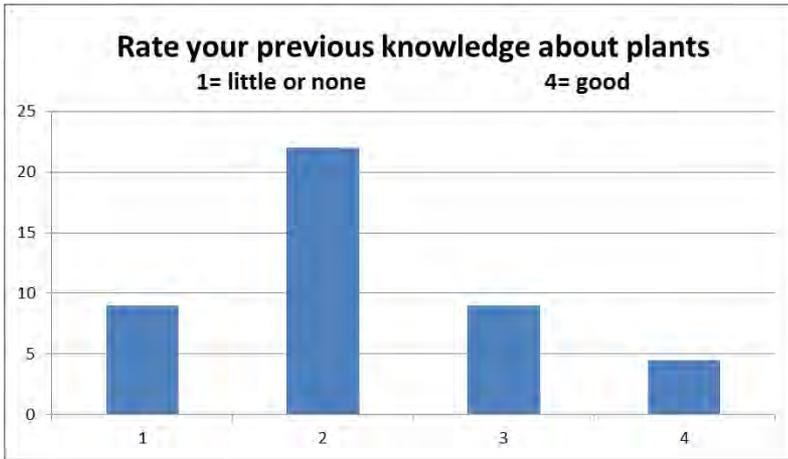
New tutors have only 3 students each, in their own geographical area.

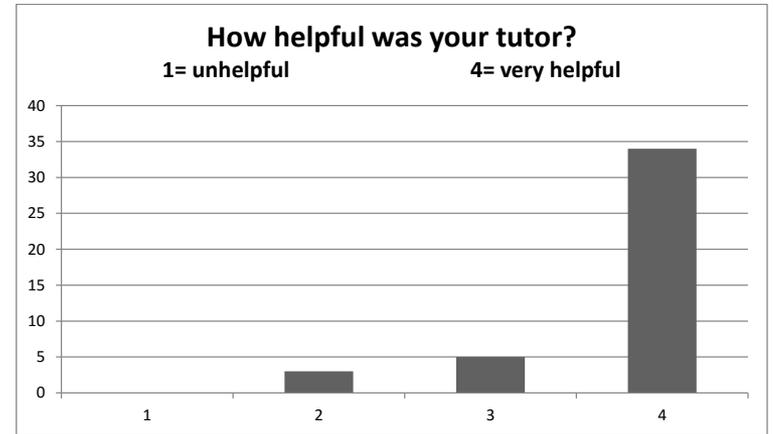
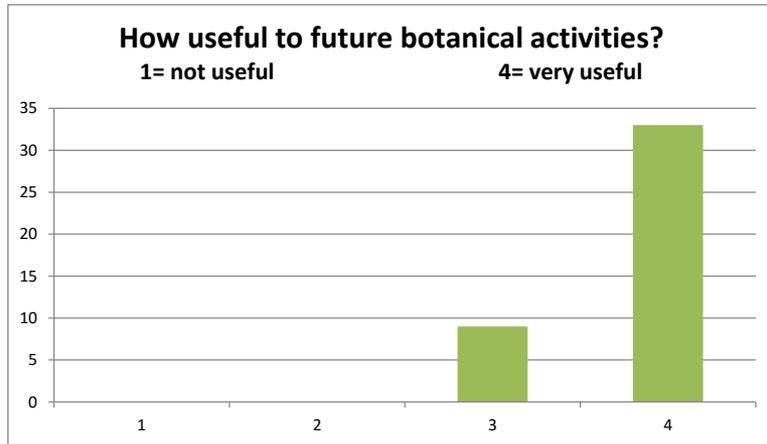
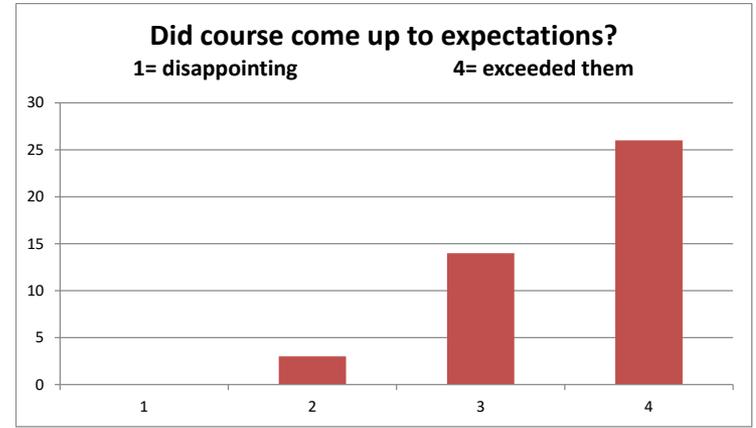
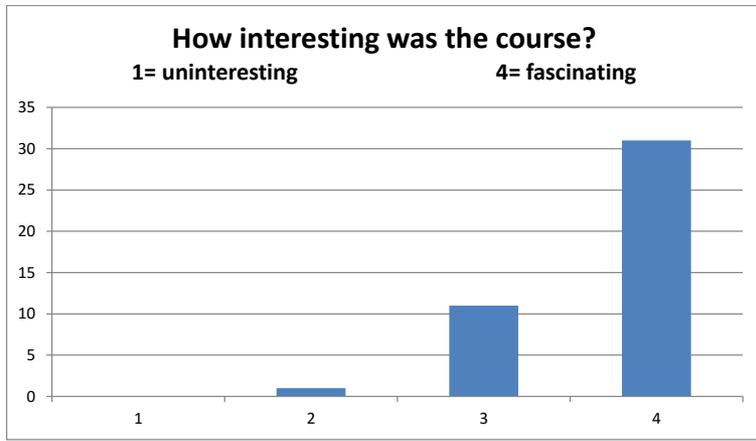
We do need a few more tutors, especially in London and the Home Counties.

Some students give up after the first few units. They received a questionnaire seeking the reasons, which were varied.

Lack of time and difficulty finding the plants were common.

A different questionnaire went to the remaining students. The responses of 43 students are summarised in the following bar charts.





What will they do next?

	YES	NO	MAYBE
Join the BSBI	19	7	16
Take an FSC course	11	3	29
Take a FISC	2	13	23

169 people have completed Identiplant since its beginning in 2013, scattered throughout Britain.

38 have said that they intended to join the BSBI and 25 that they would take an FSC course.

Many more said 'maybe'.

(And these only represent the c.50% who returned the questionnaire.)

What the students say:

'I enjoyed so much learning and looking for plants - finding out lots more than was asked for.'

'I now look at plants in a different way.'

'The course was at just the right level for me, and has brought my knowledge on by leaps and bounds! I felt well supported throughout.'

'I really enjoyed the course and feel enthusiastic about continuing to use my skills and building them further.'