A METHOD TO TEACH GENETIC VARIABILITY TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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In this presentation we intend to introduce a simple didactic method, based on empirical activities followed by driven discussions, aiming to develop the understanding and intuition of the genetic variability for undergraduate students. The scope of the method is based on specific procedures to generate random sequences of DNA (A, C, T, G), simulating a full parental population with different relationship degrees, through playful (for instance, bins and balls) and computational resources (R Program). Afterwards the students are guided to think about genetic variability through a set of challenging questions of reasoning discussed within classroom, under the teacher´s supervision. Our empirical experiences have demonstrated that this resource increases the student's motivation and facilitates the teaching of deeper statistical and genetics contents.

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