

THE CONCEPT OF POPULATION IN STUDENTS OF BIOLOGY PROGRAMSAmable Moreno¹Francisco González García²¹Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina²Universidad de Granada, Españaamoreno@fcmail.uncu.edu.ar

Results which we will expose are based on research undertaken in the program of biology, tertiary level, in Mendoza, Argentina. This study was aimed at analyzing students' concept of population.

As theoretical reference, we take from Mayr (1963) the definition of population that rests on the biological point of view. On the other hand, the statistical point of view provides another definition of population; we based that definition on Meyer's work (2006).

We analyzed the current program curriculum. A survey was conducted and answered by twenty one professors. The survey was about teaching this concept, the treatment of the concept in biostatistical textbooks. Another survey provided answers of one hundred students. Students completed a questionnaire which researches their ideas related to the concept of population.

This study results show that most students do not have an appropriate concept of population either from the biological point of view or the statistical point of view. It is thought that there are two possible reasons for this situation. One of them could be its apparent simplicity, which contributes to the fact that professors and bibliography do not treat this concept properly; and the other reason could be that most books present only the physical aspect of the concept.

In conclusion, we suggest that teaching the concept of population in biostatistic has to start with the biological concept of population and then follow with the statistical concept, showing the relation between them.

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