

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL - 1

Tables S1. Frequency results considering the argument categories and gender

Table S1-1. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main argument categories and subcategories used by pupils in SCENARIO 1 for schemes A and B, according to GENDER (Girl/Boy/NR: Non-response). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the Don't Know category presented last. (Reprod. capacity: Reproduction capacity; Intersp. interact.: Interspecific interaction; General conserv.: General conservation; Sat. human int.: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme A | | | | | | | | Scheme B | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 53 | 5.9 | 26 | 5.1 | 27 | 7.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 59 | 33.5 | 40 | 37.0 | 17 | 29.8 | 2 | 18.2 | 112 | 10.4 |
| Diversity value | 167 | 18.5 | 100 | 19.8 | 61 | 17.0 | 6 | 15.4 | 11 | 6.3 | 7 | 6.5 | 4 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 178 | 16.5 |
| Evenness | 408 | 45.2 | 239 | 47.3 | 158 | 44.0 | 11 | 28.2 | 6 | 3.4 | 3 | 2.8 | 3 | 5.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 414 | 38.4 |
| Richness | 37 | 4.1 | 20 | 4.0 | 15 | 4.2 | 2 | 5.1 | 10 | 5.7 | 8 | 7.4 | 2 | 3.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 47 | 4.4 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reprod. capacity | 18 | 2.0 | 11 | 2.2 | 7 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 9.1 | 20 | 1.9 |
| Trophic structure | 15 | 1.7 | 11 | 2.2 | 3 | 0.8 | 1 | 2.6 | 20 | 11.4 | 10 | 9.3 | 7 | 12.3 | 3 | 27.3 | 35 | 3.2 |
| Spatial interaction | 14 | 1.6 | 7 | 1.4 | 4 | 1.1 | 3 | 7.7 | 1 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 1.4 |
| Naturalness | 9 | 1.0 | 5 | 1.0 | 4 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 3.4 | 2 | 1.9 | 4 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 1.4 |
| Intersp. interact. | 19 | 2.0 | 10 | 2.0 | 7 | 2.0 | 1 | 2.6 | 4 | 2.3 | 3 | 2.8 | 1 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 22 | 2.1 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conserv. | 9 | 1.0 | 4 | 0.8 | 4 | 1.1 | 1 | 2.6 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 9.1 | 11 | 1.0 |
| Extinction risk | 41 | 4.5 | 24 | 4.8 | 16 | 4.5 | 1 | 2.6 | 4 | 2.3 | 4 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 45 | 4.2 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 26 | 2.9 | 12 | 2.4 | 13 | 3.6 | 1 | 2.6 | 17 | 9.7 | 9 | 8.3 | 6 | 10.5 | 2 | 18.2 | 43 | 4.0 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Speciation | 5 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.6 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 25 | 2.8 | 10 | 2.0 | 10 | 2.8 | 5 | 12.8 | 6 | 3.4 | 3 | 2.8 | 3 | 5.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 31 | 2.9 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. human int. | 5 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 4.5 | 4 | 3.7 | 4 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 13 | 1.2 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 12 | 1.3 | 9 | 1.8 | 3 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 1.1 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 6 | 0.7 | 3 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.3 | 2 | 5.1 | 3 | 1.7 | 3 | 2.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 0.8 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 35 | 3.9 | 9 | 1.8 | 21 | 5.8 | 5 | 12.8 | 16 | 9.1 | 9 | 8.3 | 5 | 8.8 | 2 | 18.2 | 51 | 4.7 |
| TOTAL | 903 | 100 | 505 | 100 | 359 | 100 | 39 | 100 | 176 | 100 | 108 | 100 | 57 | 100 | 11 | 100 | 1079 | 100 |

Table S1-2. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main argument categories and subcategories used by pupils in SCENARIO 2 for schemes C and D, according to GENDER (Girl/Boy/NR: Non-response). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the DK (Don't Know) category presented last. (Reprod. capac.: Reproduction capacity; Intersp. interact.: Interspecific interaction; General conserv.: General conservation; Sp. introd. threats: Species introduction threats; Sat. human int.: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme C | | | | | | | | Scheme D | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 17 | 2.4 | 11 | 2.7 | 5 | 2.0 | 1 | 3.7 | 22 | 11.9 | 14 | 16.7 | 8 | 8.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 39 | 4.4 |
| Diversity value | 201 | 28.9 | 121 | 29.2 | 73 | 28.7 | 7 | 25.9 | 13 | 7.0 | 7 | 8.3 | 5 | 5.5 | 1 | 10.0 | 214 | 24.3 |
| Evenness | 43 | 6.2 | 17 | 4.1 | 26 | 10.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 38 | 20.5 | 20 | 23.8 | 18 | 19.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 81 | 9.2 |
| Richness | 291 | 41.8 | 186 | 44.8 | 97 | 38.2 | 8 | 29.6 | 20 | 10.8 | 8 | 9.5 | 11 | 12.1 | 1 | 10.0 | 311 | 35.3 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reprod. capacity | 6 | 0.9 | 6 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 2.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 4 | 4.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 11 | 1.2 |
| Trophic structure | 7 | 1.0 | 5 | 1.2 | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.6 | 3 | 3.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 1.1 |
| Spatial interaction | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.6 | 2 | 2.4 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.6 |
| Naturalness | 7 | 1.0 | 6 | 1.4 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 2 | 2.4 | 2 | 2.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 11 | 1.2 |
| Intersp. interaction | 3 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.6 | 1 | 1.2 | 2 | 2.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.7 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conserv. | 3 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.3 |
| Sp. introd. threats | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.2 |
| Extinction risk | 12 | 1.7 | 7 | 1.7 | 4 | 1.6 | 1 | 3.7 | 7 | 3.8 | 5 | 6.0 | 2 | 2.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 19 | 2.2 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 28 | 4.0 | 14 | 3.4 | 10 | 3.9 | 4 | 14.8 | 23 | 12.4 | 9 | 10.7 | 13 | 14.3 | 1 | 10.0 | 51 | 5.8 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Speciation | 9 | 1.3 | 6 | 1.4 | 3 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 1 | 1.2 | 3 | 3.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 13 | 1.5 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 15 | 2.2 | 6 | 1.4 | 7 | 2.8 | 2 | 7.4 | 13 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 11.0 | 3 | 30.0 | 28 | 3.2 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. human int. | 8 | 1.1 | 6 | 1.4 | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 10.0 | 10 | 1.1 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.3 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 7 | 1.0 | 4 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.9 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 35 | 5.0 | 15 | 3.6 | 17 | 6.7 | 3 | 11.1 | 21 | 11.4 | 7 | 8.3 | 11 | 12.1 | 3 | 30.0 | 56 | 6.4 |
| TOTAL | 696 | 100 | 415 | 100 | 254 | 100 | 27 | 100 | 185 | 100 | 84 | 100 | 91 | 100 | 10 | 100 | 881 | 100 |

Table S1-3. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main categories and subcategories of arguments used by pupils in SCENARIO 3 for schemes E and F, according to GENDER (Girl/Boy/NR: Non-response). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the DK (Don't Know) category presented last. (Reprod. capacity: Reproduction capacity; Colonization mode-A: Artificial colonization mode; Colonization mode-N: Natural colonization mode; Intersp. interaction: Interspecific interaction; Sp. introd. threats: Species introduction' threats; Adaptation-Orig.: Adaption in original habitat; Adaptation-New: Adaptation to a new habitat; Sat. human int.: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme E | | | | | | | | Scheme F | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | All | | Girl | | Boy | | NR | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 7 | 1.8 | 5 | 2.2 | 2 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 13 | 2.3 | 6 | 1.9 | 6 | 2.6 | 1 | 4.3 | 20 | 2.1 |
| Diversity value | 68 | 17.4 | 37 | 16.2 | 26 | 17.7 | 5 | 33.3 | 14 | 2.4 | 4 | 1.3 | 8 | 3.4 | 2 | 8.7 | 82 | 8.5 |
| Evenness | 14 | 3.6 | 7 | 3.1 | 7 | 4.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 22 | 3.8 | 9 | 2.8 | 13 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 36 | 3.7 |
| Richness | 148 | 37.9 | 89 | 39.0 | 55 | 37.4 | 4 | 26.7 | 30 | 5.2 | 16 | 5.0 | 13 | 5.6 | 1 | 4.3 | 178 | 18.4 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reprod. capacity | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 1.1 | 3 | 0.9 | 3 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.7 |
| Colonization mode-A | 25 | 6.4 | 19 | 8.3 | 6 | 4.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 29 | 5.1 | 20 | 6.3 | 9 | 3.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 54 | 5.6 |
| Colonization mode-N | 7 | 1.8 | 6 | 2.6 | 1 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 116 | 20.2 | 77 | 24.1 | 37 | 15.9 | 2 | 8.7 | 123 | 12.7 |
| Trophic structure | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.9 | 5 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.8 |
| Spatial interaction | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.9 | 3 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 4.3 | 6 | 0.6 |
| Naturalness | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 58 | 10.1 | 37 | 11.6 | 20 | 8.6 | 1 | 4.3 | 58 | 6.0 |
| Intersp. interaction | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 1.6 | 6 | 1.9 | 3 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 0.9 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conservation | 2 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 2.1 | 4 | 1.3 | 7 | 3.0 | 1 | 4.3 | 14 | 1.5 |
| Ethnocentrism | 2 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 32 | 5.6 | 15 | 4.7 | 17 | 7.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 34 | 3.5 |
| Sp. introd. threats | 3 | 0.8 | 3 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 68 | 11.8 | 39 | 12.2 | 27 | 11.6 | 2 | 8.7 | 71 | 7.4 |
| Extinction risk | 6 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.3 | 3 | 2.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 17 | 3.0 | 12 | 3.8 | 4 | 1.7 | 1 | 4.3 | 23 | 2.4 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 24 | 6.2 | 9 | 3.9 | 13 | 8.8 | 2 | 13.3 | 26 | 4.5 | 9 | 2.8 | 15 | 6.4 | 2 | 8.7 | 50 | 5.2 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adaptation-Orig. | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 29 | 5.0 | 15 | 4.7 | 12 | 5.2 | 2 | 8.7 | 29 | 3.0 |
| Adaptation-New | 4 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 22 | 3.8 | 16 | 5.0 | 6 | 2.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 26 | 2.7 |
| Speciation | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 9.4 | 4 | 1.2 | 4 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 11 | 1.1 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 13 | 3.3 | 6 | 2.6 | 4 | 2.7 | 3 | 20.0 | 9 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 2.6 | 3 | 13.0 | 22 | 2.3 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. human int. | 13 | 3.3 | 8 | 3.5 | 5 | 3.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 1.2 | 4 | 1.3 | 2 | 0.9 | 1 | 4.3 | 20 | 2.1 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 7 | 1.8 | 4 | 1.8 | 3 | 2.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 1.6 | 5 | 1.6 | 3 | 1.3 | 1 | 4.3 | 16 | 1.7 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.5 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 36 | 9.2 | 17 | 7.5 | 18 | 12.2 | 1 | 6.7 | 27 | 4.7 | 8 | 2.5 | 17 | 7.3 | 2 | 8.7 | 63 | 6.5 |
| TOTAL | 390 | 100 | 228 | 100 | 147 | 100 | 15 | 100 | 575 | 100 | 319 | 100 | 233 | 100 | 23 | 100 | 965 | 100 |

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL - 2

Tables S2. Frequency results considering the argument categories and school level

Table S2-1. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main argument categories and subcategories used by pupils in SCENARIO 1 for schemes A and B, according to SCHOOL LEVEL (MS: Middle School; HS: High School). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the Don't Know category presented last. (Satisfact. human interest: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme A | | | | | | Scheme B | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | MS | | HS | | All | | MS | | HS | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 53 | 5.9 | 36 | 6.9 | 17 | 4.4 | 59 | 33.5 | 41 | 36.6 | 18 | 28.1 | 112 | 10.4 |
| Diversity value | 167 | 18.5 | 90 | 17.3 | 77 | 20.1 | 11 | 6.3 | 10 | 8.9 | 1 | 1.6 | 178 | 16.5 |
| Evenness | 408 | 45.2 | 214 | 41.2 | 194 | 50.5 | 6 | 3.4 | 2 | 1.8 | 4 | 6.3 | 414 | 38.4 |
| Richness | 37 | 4.1 | 31 | 6.0 | 6 | 1.6 | 10 | 5.7 | 9 | 8.0 | 1 | 1.6 | 47 | 4.4 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reproduction capacity | 18 | 2.0 | 11 | 2.1 | 7 | 1.8 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 1 | 1.6 | 20 | 1.9 |
| Trophic structure | 15 | 1.7 | 2 | 0.4 | 13 | 3.4 | 20 | 11.4 | 4 | 3.6 | 16 | 25.0 | 35 | 3.2 |
| Spatial interaction | 14 | 1.6 | 8 | 1.5 | 6 | 1.6 | 1 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 1.4 |
| Naturalness | 9 | 1.0 | 4 | 0.8 | 5 | 1.3 | 6 | 3.4 | 1 | 0.9 | 5 | 7.8 | 15 | 1.4 |
| Interspecific interaction | 18 | 2.0 | 12 | 2.3 | 6 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.3 | 3 | 2.7 | 1 | 1.6 | 22 | 2.1 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conservation | 9 | 1.0 | 6 | 1.2 | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 1 | 1.6 | 11 | 1.0 |
| Extinction risk | 41 | 4.5 | 23 | 4.4 | 18 | 4.7 | 4 | 2.3 | 1 | 0.9 | 3 | 4.7 | 45 | 4.2 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 26 | 2.9 | 16 | 3.1 | 10 | 2.6 | 17 | 9.7 | 16 | 14.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 43 | 4.0 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Speciation | 5 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.6 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 25 | 2.8 | 16 | 3.1 | 9 | 2.3 | 6 | 3.4 | 6 | 5.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 31 | 2.9 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Satisfact. human interest | 5 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.5 | 8 | 4.5 | 4 | 3.6 | 4 | 6.3 | 13 | 1.2 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 12 | 1.3 | 11 | 2.1 | 1 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 1.1 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 6 | 0.7 | 6 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.7 | 3 | 2.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 0.8 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 35 | 3.9 | 27 | 5.2 | 8 | 2.1 | 16 | 9.1 | 8 | 7.1 | 8 | 12.5 | 51 | 4.7 |
| TOTAL | 903 | 100 | 519 | 100 | 384 | 100 | 176 | 100 | 112 | 100 | 64 | 100 | 1079 | 100 |

Table S2-2. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main categories and subcategories of arguments used by pupils in SCENARIO 2 for schemes D and E, according to SCHOOL LEVEL (MS: Middle School; HS: High School). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the DK (Don't Know) category presented last. (Species introd. threats: Species introduction' threats; Sat. human int.: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme C | | | | | | Scheme D | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | MS | | HS | | All | | MS | | HS | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 17 | 2.4 | 13 | 3.3 | 4 | 1.3 | 22 | 11.9 | 9 | 8.2 | 13 | 17.3 | 39 | 4.4 |
| Diversity value | 201 | 28.9 | 77 | 19.4 | 124 | 41.3 | 13 | 7.0 | 8 | 7.3 | 5 | 6.7 | 214 | 24.3 |
| Evenness | 43 | 6.2 | 20 | 5.1 | 23 | 7.7 | 38 | 20.5 | 27 | 24.5 | 11 | 14.7 | 81 | 9.2 |
| Richness | 291 | 41.8 | 192 | 48.5 | 99 | 33.0 | 20 | 10.8 | 11 | 10.0 | 9 | 12.0 | 311 | 35.3 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reproduction capacity | 6 | 0.9 | 2 | 0.5 | 4 | 1.3 | 5 | 2.7 | 2 | 1.8 | 3 | 4.0 | 11 | 1.2 |
| Trophic structure | 7 | 1.0 | 3 | 0.8 | 4 | 1.3 | 3 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.0 | 10 | 1.1 |
| Spatial interaction | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 3 | 1.6 | 2 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.3 | 5 | 0.6 |
| Naturalness | 7 | 1.0 | 4 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 3 | 2.7 | 1 | 1.3 | 11 | 1.2 |
| Interspecific interaction | 3 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.6 | 2 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.3 | 6 | 0.7 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conservation | 3 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.3 |
| Species introd. threats | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.7 | 2 | 0.2 |
| Extinction risk | 12 | 1.7 | 8 | 2.0 | 4 | 1.3 | 7 | 3.8 | 3 | 2.7 | 4 | 5.3 | 19 | 2.2 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 28 | 4.0 | 21 | 5.3 | 7 | 2.3 | 23 | 12.4 | 16 | 14.5 | 7 | 9.3 | 51 | 5.8 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Speciation | 9 | 1.3 | 5 | 1.3 | 4 | 1.3 | 4 | 2.2 | 2 | 1.8 | 2 | 2.6 | 13 | 1.5 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 15 | 2.2 | 14 | 3.5 | 1 | 0.3 | 13 | 7.0 | 8 | 7.3 | 5 | 6.7 | 28 | 3.2 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. human interest | 8 | 1.1 | 3 | 0.8 | 5 | 1.7 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 1 | 1.3 | 10 | 1.1 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.3 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 7 | 1.0 | 4 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.9 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 35 | 5.0 | 26 | 6.6 | 9 | 3.0 | 21 | 11.4 | 14 | 12.7 | 7 | 9.3 | 56 | 6.4 |
| TOTAL | 696 | 100 | 396 | 100 | 300 | 100 | 185 | 100 | 110 | 100 | 75 | 100 | 881 | 100 |

Table S2-3. Number (N_a) and percentage (%) of the main categories and subcategories of arguments used by pupils in SCENARIO 3 for schemes E and F, according to SCHOOL LEVEL (MS: Middle School; HS: High School). The categories are presented in descending order of frequency observed for the three scenarios, with the DK (Don't Know) category presented last. (Colonization mode–A: Artificial colonization mode; Colonization mode–N: Natural colonization mode; Species introd. threats: Species introduction' threats; Adaptation–Orig.: Adaption in original habitat; Adaptation–New: Adaptation to a new habitat; Sat. human int.: Satisfaction of human interest).

| CATEGORY Subcategory | Scheme E | | | | | | Scheme F | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | All | | MS | | HS | | All | | MS | | HS | | | |
| | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % | N _a | % |
| DIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abundance | 7 | 1.8 | 4 | 1.5 | 3 | 2.5 | 13 | 2.3 | 8 | 3.0 | 5 | 1.6 | 20 | 2.1 |
| Diversity value | 68 | 17.4 | 35 | 13.0 | 33 | 27.3 | 14 | 2.4 | 6 | 2.2 | 8 | 2.6 | 82 | 8.5 |
| Evenness | 14 | 3.6 | 9 | 3.3 | 5 | 4.1 | 22 | 3.8 | 10 | 3.7 | 12 | 3.9 | 36 | 3.7 |
| Richness | 148 | 37.9 | 111 | 41.3 | 37 | 30.6 | 30 | 5.2 | 25 | 9.4 | 5 | 1.6 | 178 | 18.4 |
| ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reproduction capacity | 1 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.8 | 6 | 1.1 | 4 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.7 |
| Colonization mode–A | 25 | 6.4 | 18 | 6.7 | 7 | 5.8 | 29 | 5.1 | 7 | 2.6 | 22 | 7.1 | 54 | 5.6 |
| Colonization mode–N | 7 | 1.8 | 4 | 1.5 | 3 | 2.5 | 116 | 20.2 | 58 | 21.7 | 58 | 18.8 | 123 | 12.7 |
| Trophic structure | 3 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.4 | 2 | 1.7 | 5 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 1.6 | 8 | 0.8 |
| Spatial interaction | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.9 | 5 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.6 |
| Naturalness | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 58 | 10.1 | 26 | 9.7 | 32 | 10.4 | 58 | 6.0 |
| Interspecific interaction | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 9 | 1.6 | 2 | 0.7 | 7 | 2.3 | 9 | 0.9 |
| CONSERVATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conservation | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.8 | 12 | 2.1 | 3 | 1.1 | 9 | 2.9 | 14 | 1.5 |
| Ethnocentrism | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.8 | 32 | 5.6 | 16 | 6.0 | 16 | 5.2 | 34 | 3.5 |
| Species introd. threats | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.8 | 68 | 11.8 | 18 | 6.7 | 50 | 16.2 | 71 | 7.4 |
| Extinction risk | 6 | 1.5 | 5 | 1.9 | 1 | 0.8 | 17 | 3.0 | 2 | 0.7 | 15 | 4.9 | 23 | 2.4 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authoritarianism | 24 | 6.2 | 19 | 7.1 | 5 | 4.1 | 26 | 4.5 | 19 | 7.1 | 7 | 2.3 | 50 | 5.2 |
| EVOLUTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adaptation–Orig. | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 29 | 5.0 | 13 | 4.9 | 16 | 5.2 | 29 | 3.0 |
| Adaptation–New | 4 | 1.0 | 2 | 0.7 | 2 | 1.7 | 22 | 3.8 | 9 | 3.4 | 13 | 4.2 | 26 | 2.7 |
| Speciation | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.8 | 8 | 1.4 | 3 | 1.1 | 5 | 1.6 | 11 | 1.1 |
| AESTHETICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetics | 13 | 3.3 | 11 | 4.1 | 2 | 1.7 | 9 | 1.6 | 6 | 2.2 | 3 | 1.0 | 22 | 2.3 |
| SOCIAL DYNAMICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. human interest | 13 | 3.3 | 9 | 3.3 | 4 | 3.3 | 7 | 1.2 | 4 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.0 | 20 | 2.1 |
| ETHICS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | 7 | 1.8 | 3 | 1.1 | 4 | 3.3 | 9 | 1.6 | 3 | 1.1 | 6 | 1.9 | 16 | 1.7 |
| EGOCENTRISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egocentrism | 3 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.5 |
| DON'T KNOW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 36 | 9.2 | 29 | 10.8 | 7 | 5.8 | 27 | 4.7 | 18 | 6.7 | 9 | 2.9 | 63 | 6.5 |
| TOTAL | 390 | 100 | 269 | 100 | 121 | 100 | 575 | 100 | 267 | 100 | 308 | 100 | 965 | 100 |