

AP® BIOLOGY
2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

Trichomes are hairlike outgrowths of the epidermis of plants that are thought to provide protection against being eaten by herbivores (herbivory). In a certain plant species, stem trichome density is genetically determined.

To investigate variation in stem trichome density within the plant species, a student counted the number of trichomes on the stems of six plants in each of three different populations. The student used the data to calculate the mean trichome density (numbers of hairs per square centimeter) for each population. The results are provided in the table below.

TRICHOME DENSITY IN THREE PLANT POPULATIONS (number of trichomes/cm²)

Population	Plant 1	Plant 2	Plant 3	Plant 4	Plant 5	Plant 6	Sample Mean	Standard Error of the Mean (SEM)
I	8	11	9	10	8	6	9	1
II	12	6	15	9	13	8	11	1
III	13	17	9	14	12	16	14	1

- (a) On the axes provided, **create** an appropriately labeled graph to illustrate the sample means of the three populations to within 95 percent confidence (i.e., sample mean $\pm$ 2 SEM). **(3 points maximum; LO 1.1)**
- Correctly labeled, scaled, with proper units
 - Bar graph or modified bar graph with appropriately plotted means
 - 2x standard error (SEM) above and below means

- (b) Based on the sample means and standard errors of the means, **identify** the two populations that are most likely to have statistically significant differences in the mean stem trichome densities. **Justify** your response. **(2 points maximum; LO 4.11, 4.19)**

Identification **(1 point)**

- Populations I and III

Justification **(1 point)**

- The error bars/95 percent confidence intervals for populations I and III do not overlap
- (Sample mean + 2 SEM of population I) < (Sample mean – 2 SEM of population III)

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Question 1 (continued)

- (c) **Describe** the independent and dependent variables and a control treatment for an experiment to test the hypothesis that higher trichome density in plants is selected for in the presence of herbivores. Also **identify** an appropriate duration of the experiment to ensure that natural selection is measured and **predict** the experimental results that would support the hypothesis. **(5 points maximum; LO 1.5, 1.11)**

NOTE: Points are earned in a single row only.

Independent Variable (1 point)	Dependent Variable (1 point)	Control (1 point)	Duration (1 point)	Prediction (1 point)
Presence of herbivores	Trichome density	Absence of herbivores	More than one generation	Increased trichome density relative to control
Trichome density in the presence of herbivores	Reproductive success OR # of plants	Plants with lower trichome density	More than one generation	Size of the population with higher trichome density will be larger than control population

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