

# Germinating popcorn and making spores dance - how to make undergraduates' first meeting with plants a success

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## AIM

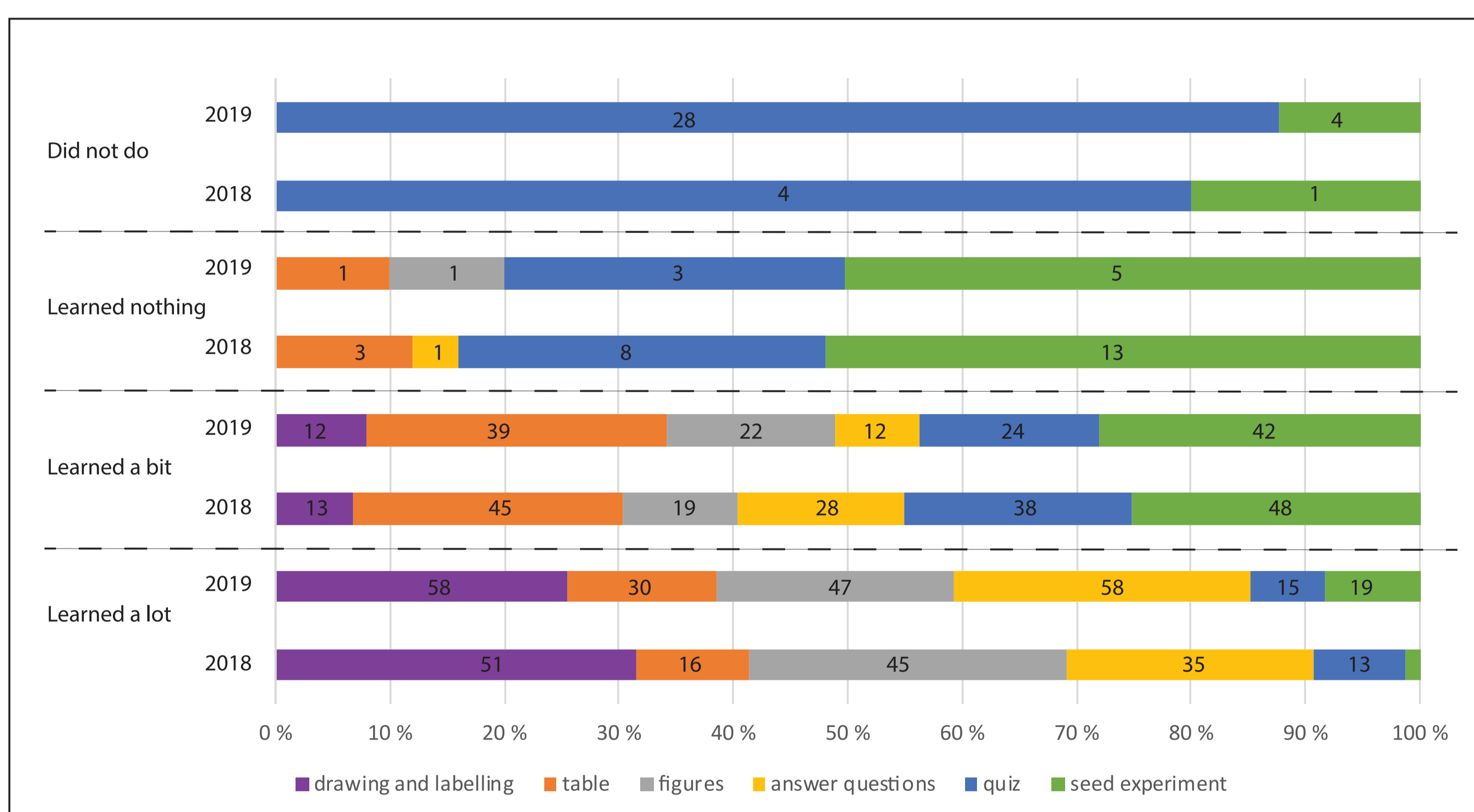
We wanted to test which activities in a first year course in biology will enhance students learning and their interests in plants and plant ecology, and also to understand what provides them with a good background for their future courses in biology?

## METHODS

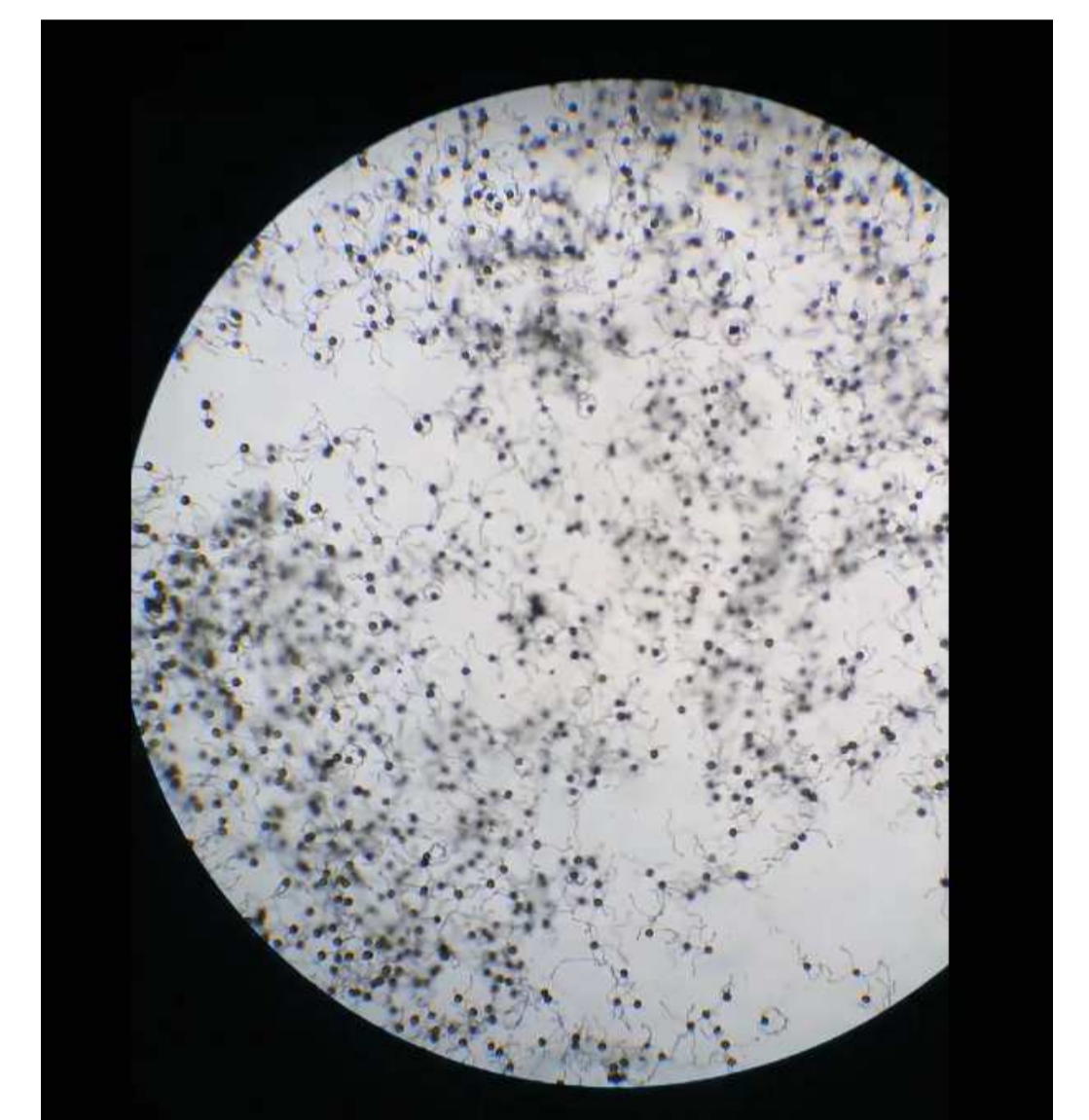
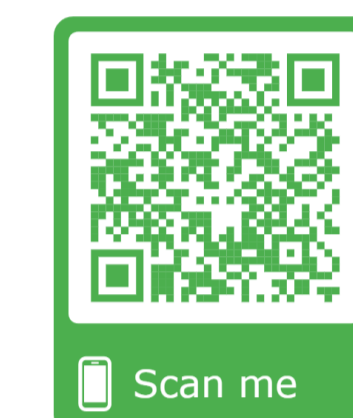
During the laboratory course of BIO 101 Organismal Biology I the students in 2018 and 2019 were asked what they learned most from:

- making drawings and set names on their drawings
- fill in tables
- add names to figures in the report
- answer questions in the lab report
- online quiz before the lab
- seed experiment

## RESULTS



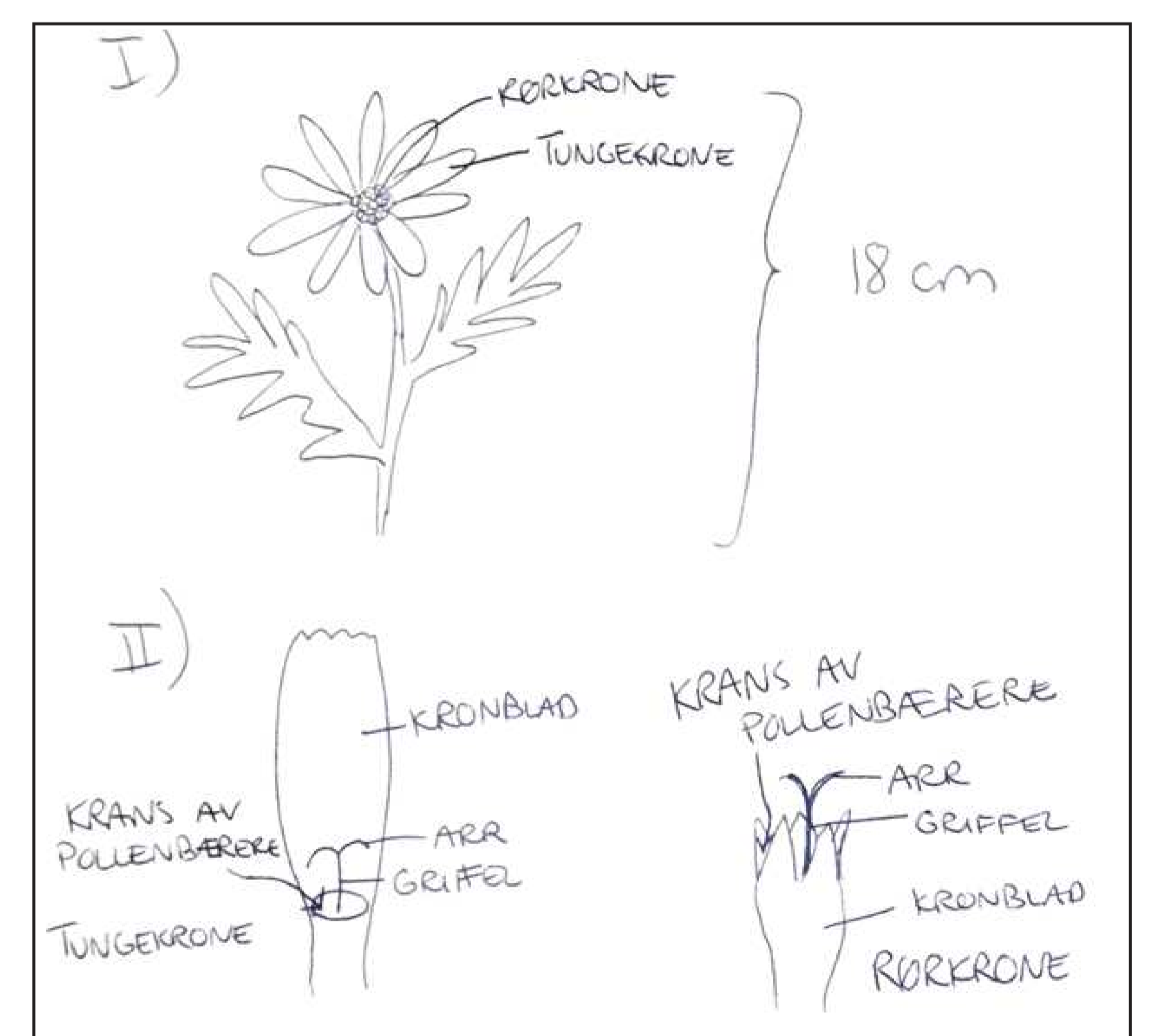
Results from survey among students in 2018 and 2019. The bars give the rate of answers in % and the numbers are the actual number of answers. In 2018 we got 64 respondents and in 2019 we had 70 respondents.



Dancing spores



Germinating popcorn



Example of drawing from the lab report



## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the feedback from the students and our observations over these two years:

- Students learned most from observing plants, making drawings and set names to their drawing
- Variation is important to increase learning outcome
- It is important to provide enough time to complete the tasks