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Q90

Certain species of which one of the following organisms are well known as cultivators of fungi? (a) Ant (b) Cockroach (c) Crab (d) Spider Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Ant. Leaf-cutter and some termite-associated ants farm fungus.

(b)

Cockroach. Not a fungus-cultivator in this sense.

(c)

Crab. Not this farming.

(d)

Spider. Predators, not fungus farmers.

Summary

Official key is (a) ant. Attine / leaf-cutter ants cultivate fungus gardens. Cockroach, crab and spider are the wrong natural histories.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Leaf-cutter ants

Atta and Acromyrmex; Neotropical fungus agriculture.

Termites

Macrotermitinae also farm fungus - a neighbouring PYQ.

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