GPC Nature Competition Entry Rules

Definition of acceptable nature subjects:

1. All animals …
   - Vertebrates: mammals (not human), birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish
   - Invertebrates: e.g. insects, snails, crabs, worms, coral, sea anemones, etc.
2. All plant life …
   - flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens etc.
3. All fungi …
   - Mushrooms and moulds (for example on rotting fruit or stale bread)
4. Geological, astronomical and microscopy, plus patterns, design and form found within nature.

General conditions:

1. All entries can be colour or mono and must be titled, either with the correct English name and/or the scientific name.

2. All images must convey the truth of what the author saw at the time of taking. Any manipulation must be confined to standard single image in camera / computer adjustments eg exposure, colour, sharpening/noise reduction and the removal of **minor** blemishes or distractions.

   The final image must have been produced from a single digital recording (or negative/transparency) and **must not** be a combination of images.

   The **only exceptions** to this are, with exposures taken at the same spot and time, with the use of 'focus stacking', stitched panorama images, HDR and astronomical photo stacking that have stacked exposures or a single exposure of the sky and one further exposure depicting the foreground.

3. Subjects for photography may be temporarily taken into captivity. However, this must be done with the subject's welfare a priority and such subjects must be returned to their habitat as soon as possible after the photography has been completed.

4. Images of subjects captured by the use of 'live' bait are **not** permitted. This is an unethical practice.

5. Images taken in domestic environments / gardens are allowed **except** cultivated plants and domestic animals, which includes farm animals.

6. Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where this is relevant, then the photographer must follow all relevant codes of practice and hold all necessary licences and permissions to photograph the subject.