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HOW TO MEASURE AND PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY

UZI Spring School

Venezia, maggio 20-22, 2011



The **Unione Zoologica Italiana (UZI)** with the support of the **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti**, and the sponsorship of **CNR-ISMAR** (Venice), organizes the first *UZI School*, an event that is intended to get together young researchers and senior scientists to address and discuss topics of large interest and particularly relevant in Zoology and related discipline. The first edition of the *UZI School* has been dedicated to biodiversity addressing the issue of “**How to measure and preserve biodiversity**”.

Aims and rationale. There is a growing concern about the depletion of natural biodiversity. Several causes are believed to be responsible for biodiversity loss, including overexploitation of natural resources, and rapid modification of natural environments by human activities. An accurate assessment of this phenomenon requires to define “biodiversity” at its many levels (communities, species, populations, gene pools) and to agree on how to measure it. Tools employed to describe biodiversity range from morphology to genetics; to choose which tool is more appropriate in which case is crucial, and will be addressed in this school. Strategies aimed at preserving biological diversity will also be discussed.

Organization of the school. The school will be organized in four half-day sessions each from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning. Each session will be chaired by two senior scientists who will introduce the specific topic of the session by a lecture of (max) 1 hr 30 min. The audience will be composed by 30 selected junior researchers.

Organizing committee. Ettore Olmo (UZI President), Ferdinando Boero (UZI), Gaetano Ciarcia (UZI), Alessandro Minelli (UZI and IVSLA), Tomaso Patarnello (UZI), Mario Pestarino (UZI).

Lecturers

FERDINANDO BOERO, *DiSTeBA Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy; CNR-ISMAR*

PHILIPPE BOUCHET, *Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) Paris, France*

MARCO CURINI-GALLETTI, *Dipartimento di Zoologia e Genetica Evoluzionistica, Università di Sassari, Italy*

RONALD JENNER, *Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, London, UK*

AXEL MEYER, *Lehrstuhl für Zoologie und Evolutionsbiologie, Universität Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany*

ALESSANDRO MINELLI, *Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Padova, Italy*

TOMASO PATARNELLO, *Dip. Sanità Pubbl., Patologia Comp. e Igiene Veterinaria, University of Padova, Italy*

Location

The school will be held at the *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*, hosted in *Franchetti Palace*, one of the most beautiful historical palaces on the Canal Grande (web site: <http://www.istitutoveneto.it/index.html>).



Who can apply

The course is designed for a maximum number of 30 PhD students, post-doctoral and young tenure-track researchers. At least 5 positions are reserved for non-Italian students. Preference will be given on the basis of actual involvement in biodiversity research, personal motivation, and CV. Organizers will also try to maximize representation of research groups and scientific interests.

How to apply

Applicants must send a short CV and a motivation statement to segreteria.uzi@unina.it (copy to tomaso.patarnello@unipd.it)

When to apply

not later than **5th of April, 2011.**

Costs and facilities

The fee of 150 € includes:

- double-room accommodation for 2 nights at the Istituto Artigianelli (<http://www.donorione-venezia.it/>)
- 1 welcome dinner
- 1 lunch
- 4 coffee breaks

Registration form and secure on-line payment of the fees will be accessible in due time.

Important dates

5th April, 2011 - Deadline for application

20th April 2011 - Notification to each applicant of the results of the selection

30th April 2011 - Confirmation and payment by all selected applicants

Program

Friday, 20 May

- 10.30-13.30 Arrival and Registration
14.00-14.30 Welcome and introduction to the School
- 14.30-16.30 **Philippe Bouchet** - The magnitude of biodiversity
(The biodiversity crisis: media buzz or scientific fact?)
- 16.30-17.00 **Coffee-break**
- 17.00-19.00 **Alessandro Minelli** - Recognizing and labeling the units of biodiversity
(The taxa and their names)
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Saturday, 21 May

- 8.45-10.45 **Ronald Jenner** - Morphology vs. Molecules controversy in systematics
(On the Tree of Life and the Barcode of Life)
- 10.45-11.15 **Coffee-break**
- 11.15-13.15 **Marco Curini-Galletti** - How to approach the revision of a taxon
(Some clues and a practical example)
- 13.30-15.00 **Lunch**
- 15.00-17.00 **Ferdinando Boero** - Life cycle and development in phylogenetic reconstruction and species description
(A life for Hydrozoa)
- 17.00-19.00 **PRACTICAL SESSION**
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Sunday, 22 May

- 8.45-10.45 **Axel Meyer** - Cichlid fish species flock: genetics and genomics of adaptations
(Cichlids: Large differences in a short time)
- 10.45-11.15 **Coffee-break**
- 11.15-13.15 **Tomaso Patarnello** – Intraspecific polymorphism, the basis of diversity
(New tools, old questions)
- 13.15-13.30 **Concluding remarks**