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### The Italian Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide

Carlo Alberto Ricci<sup>1</sup>, Giorgio Bavestrello<sup>2</sup>, Alessio Casagli<sup>3</sup>, Ester Colizza<sup>4</sup>, Michele Ferneti<sup>4</sup>, Cristiano Landucci<sup>4</sup>, Jacqueline Müller<sup>3</sup> (jacqueline.muller@unisi.it), Silvia Olmastroni<sup>3</sup>, Rosaria Palmeri<sup>3</sup>, Ioanna Protopsalti<sup>4</sup>, Gianguido Salvi<sup>4</sup>, Sonia Sandroni<sup>3</sup>, Stefano Schiaparelli<sup>2</sup>, Franco Maria Talarico<sup>3</sup>, Guido Travaglia<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide 'Felice Ippolito', Siena, Italy, <sup>2</sup>Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide 'Felice Ippolito', Sede di Genova, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy, <sup>3</sup>Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide 'Felice Ippolito', Sede di Siena, Università di Siena, Siena, Italy, <sup>4</sup>Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide 'Felice Ippolito', Sede di Trieste, Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

The Italian Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide ([www.mna.it](http://www.mna.it)) was established as a consortium of three universities (Genova, Siena, Trieste) in 1996 with the aim to preserve, study, and increase the value of all material collected during the Italian Antarctic expeditions, as well as to promote public understanding of Antarctic science.

The specimen repositories host rocks, meteorites, sediment and ice cores and marine and terrestrial flora and fauna, collected by the Italian Antarctic expeditions since 1985. All the material stored in the repositories is described in specific data bases. The museum operates as an infrastructure of the Italian Antarctic programme (PNRA) in support of the national and international scientific community. The storing, classification and distribution of Antarctic scientific material is a peculiar aspect of the Italian Antarctic museum that marks a clear difference to other polar museums.

The museum contributes to education, outreach and training by promoting polar knowledge to schools through lectures, guided visits and didactic experiments to all-level students, from kindergarten to PhD level and to the general public through permanent exhibitions in Genova, Siena and Trieste.

The museum publishes scientific journals, volumes, and multimedia and is also partner of international initiatives devoted to the dissemination of information of the specimen collections and results obtained by PNRA.