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The 17th International Colloquium on Amphipoda

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ABSTRACT

The 17th International Colloquium on Amphipoda (17th ICA) has been organized by the University of Palermo (Sicily, Italy), and took place in Trapani, 4-7 September 2017. All the contributions have been published in the present monograph and include a wide range of topics.

KEY WORDS

International Colloquium on Amphipoda; ICA; Amphipoda.

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Proceedings of the 17th International Colloquium on Amphipoda (17th ICA), September 4th-7th 2017, Trapani (Italy)

The first International Colloquium on Amphipoda was held in Verona in 1969, as a simple meeting of specialists interested in the Systematics of *Gammarus* and *Niphargus*.

Now, after 48 years, the Colloquium reached the 17th edition, held at the “Polo Territoriale della Provincia di Trapani”, a site of the University of Palermo, in Italy; and for the second time in Sicily (Lo Brutto et al., 2013).

The Organizing and Scientific Committees were composed by people from different countries.

Exclusively from Italy within the Organizing Committee:

Sabrina Lo Brutto (Coordinator) - University of Palermo, Italy

Marco Arculeo - University of Palermo, Italy

Vincenzo Arizza - University of Palermo, Italy

Mirella Vazzana - University of Palermo, Italy

Elvira De Matthaëis - University La Sapienza, Italy

Felicita Scapini - University of Firenze, Italy

Alberto Ugolini - University of Firenze, Italy

Eugenia Schimmenti - University of Palermo, Italy

Davide Iacofano - University of Palermo, Italy.

And from Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal,

Poland, Turkey, Norway, Brazil and Canada within the Scientific Committee:

Sabrina Lo Brutto (Coordinator) - University of Palermo, Italy

Elvira De Matthaëis - University La Sapienza, Italy

Felicita Scapini - University of Firenze, Italy

Alberto Ugolini - University of Firenze, Italy

Maria Beatrice Scipione - Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Italy

Murat Özbek - Ege University Faculty of Fisheries, Turkey

Michał Grabowski - University of Lodz, Poland

Oliver Coleman - Museum für Naturkunde, Germany

José Manuel Guerra García - Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Jan Beermann - Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany

Filipe Costa - University of Minho, Portugal

Ed Hendrycks - Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada

Cristiana Serejo - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Anne Helene Tandberg - University Museum of Bergen, Norway

Anne-Nina Lörz - CeNak-Universität Hamburg, Germany.

The Honorarium Committee was the one confirmed from the previous meetings:

Claude de Broyer - Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

Faouzia Charfi-Cheikhrouha - University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

Krzysztof Jajdźewski - University of Lodz, Poland

Gordan Karaman - Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Montenegro

Traudl Krapp-Schickel - Alexander Koenig Research Museum, Germany

Jim Lowry - Australian Museum Sydney, Australia

Ilona Muskó - BLRI, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Tihany, Hungary

Alan Myers - National University of Ireland, Ireland

Boris Sket - University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Wim Vader - Tromsø Museum, Norway.

The Colloquium included a great variety of studies on Amphipoda (Systematics, Ecology, Biogeography, Physiology, Genetics, etc.), all presented in 3 plenary lectures, 62 oral communications, and 57 posters, and published in the present issue, thanks to Members of the Scientific Committee, which reviewed the contributions and significantly helped in assessing and improving these proceedings.

There were 120 participants, from the 33 countries (Fig. 1) of which 41% students (MS, PhD or

Post-Doc). The country which the highest number of participants came from was Italy with 24 participants (of these 11 students), followed by Poland (12 participants, of these 4 students), and Tunisia and Germany (9 participants, of these 4 students, both) (Fig. 2). Several students came also from different countries, maybe due to the low cost of the registration fee.

As a matter of fact, the Colloquium gave a particular attention to needs of young students and offered travel grants, thanks to Filipe Costa, under the supervising of Jan Beermann.

The meeting was an opportunity for youngs, as it registered the most authoritative Amphipodologists of the world. On the basis of a quick search on the Web of Science and Scopus databases, we can assert that all the participants have been authors of more than 2,500 papers published in peer reviewed journals, with more than 38,500 citations. The numbers increase if journals without impact factors are included.

The International Colloquia on Amphipoda are commonly a meeting point between various amphipod specialists with a very high scientific impact on academic community and an occasion of transfer information and knowledge.

The 17th International Colloquium on Amphipoda was opened by James K. Lowry & Alan A. Myers; they reported a new classification of Amphipoda, establishing the new order Ingolfiellida (Lowry & Myers, 2017). From the first contributions, it pointed out clearly that our knowledge on



Figure 1. Map of countries which the 17th ICA 122 participants came from.

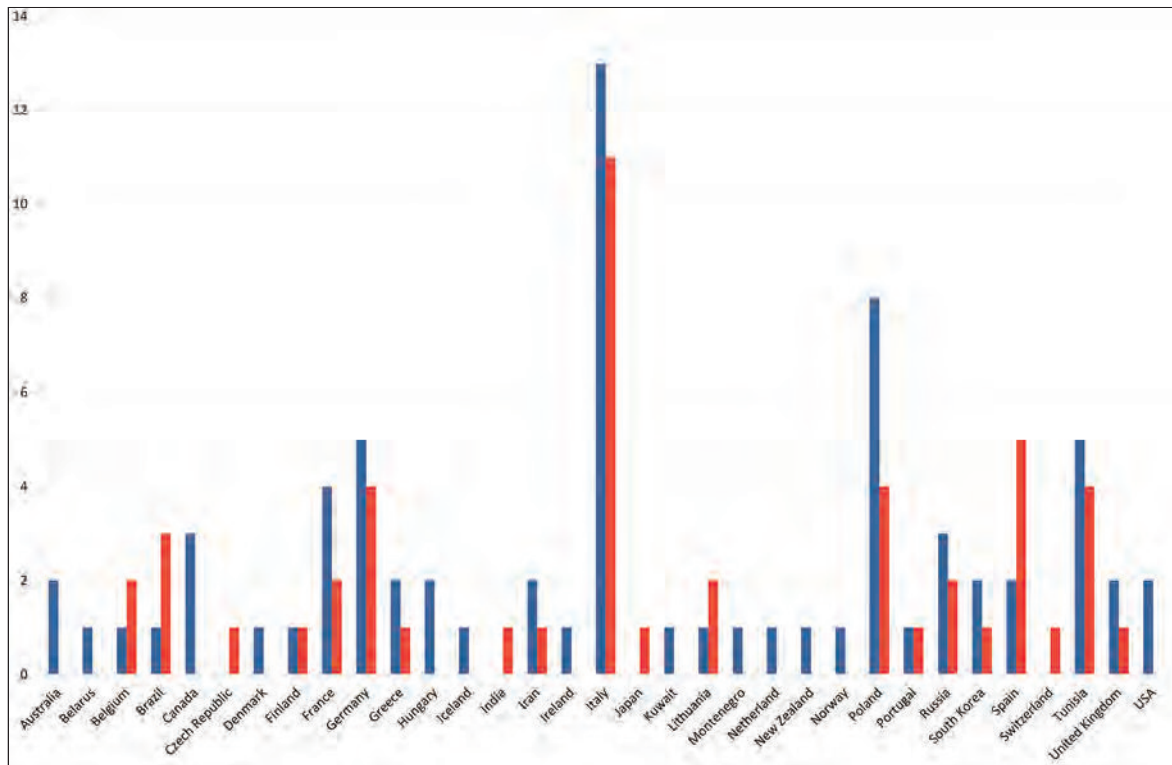


Figure 2. Number of participants per country (blue, regular participants; red, students)

amphipods diversity is still poor (Hughes, 2017; Satyam et al., 2017; Zakhama-Sraieb et al., 2017); and regarding the alien species, the knowledge of this taxon results far from being exhaustive (Cardeccia & Marchini, 2017; Thomas & White, 2017).

During the Colloquium, special attention was given to freshwater amphipods (Alther & Altermatt, 2017; Copilaş-Ciocianu et al., 2017; Hupalo et al., 2017; Šniaukštaitė, 2017), but also to abyssal amphipods (Frutos, 2017; Corbari & Jażdżewska, 2017; Horton et al., 2017) and amphipods inhabiting cold environments (Havermans et al., 2017; Lörz & Jażdżewska, 2017; Verheye et al., 2017). The Colloquium gave its contribution on how we can use the amphipods in aquaculture (Guerra-García et al., 2017). While, the DNA barcode approach and genetic results were also discussed (Vieira et al., 2017; Radulovici & Coleman, 2017).

Authors, and local organizers, focused their efforts in the success of the 17th ICA, and deeply thank all the contributors for being so numerous and enthusiastic.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The University of Palermo organized the 17th ICA, with the partnership of the Italian Zoological Union (UZI, www.uzionlus.it), Italian Society of Marine Biology (SIBM, www.sibm.it) and the Museum of Zoology “P. Doderlein” - SIMUA (Palermo, Italy, <http://museozoologia.unipa.it>).

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