



Abstract Book

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The monitoring of Sicily's coast (southern Italy) reveals the most representative NIS invertebrates of the central Mediterranean

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Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, occupies a strategic position regarding the dispersal routes of marine species entering the basin from the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea. Through case studies pertaining to activities conducted under the NBFC framework, this contribution aims to test this assertion. The fouling communities on nautical ropes were examined in three harbours (Trapani, Palermo, and Licata). New occurrences of non-indigenous species (NIS) or cryptogenic isopods (*Paranthura japonica*, *Mesanthura* cf. *romulea*, *Paracerceis sculpta*), amphipods (*Caprella scaura*, *Jassa slatteryi*, *Laticorophium baconi*, *Stenothoe georgiana*), pycnogonids (*Anoplodactylus californicus*), bivalves (*Isognomon* sp., *Brachidontes pharaonis*), and tunicates (*Microcosmus squamiger*, *Styela plicata*, *Distaplia bermudensis*) were identified in Trapani, while the isopod *Mesanthura* cf. *romulea* and the amphipod *Laticorophium baconi* were reported for the first time in Licata. Additionally, the latter species and the pycnogonid *Achelia sawayai* were also newly recorded in Palermo. Contextually, new records of species previously undetected in this area were compiled, which included two copepod species parasitic on ascidians (a botryllophilid in *Polyclinum aurantium* and *Bonnierilla similis* in *Styela plicata*) and the marine mite *Litarachna duboscqi*, whose record marks the first sighting in the central Mediterranean.