

# AMPHIPODA: TOWARDS NEW PERSPECTIVES



20TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON AMPHIPODA  
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## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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## MEDAMP: A collaborative reference library for amphipods of the Mediterranean and adjacent seas

Andrea Desiderato<sup>1</sup>, L.F. Andrade<sup>1</sup>, S. Mucciolo<sup>1</sup>, M.P. Cabezas<sup>2,3</sup>, F.O. Costa<sup>2,3</sup>, I Afonso<sup>4</sup>, H. Ariyama<sup>5</sup>, A. Badalucco<sup>6,7</sup>, A. Bonifazi<sup>12</sup>, A. Bordoni<sup>9</sup>, T. Burel<sup>10</sup>, E. Cacabelos<sup>11,12</sup>, F. Camisa<sup>13</sup>, J. Canning-Clode<sup>11</sup>, S. Carvalho<sup>14</sup>, E. Aylagas<sup>14</sup>, P. Chainho<sup>4</sup>, M. Charbonnelle<sup>15</sup>, G. Chatzigeorgiou<sup>16</sup>, S. Chebaane<sup>14</sup>, L. Corbari<sup>17</sup>, J.-C. Dauvin<sup>15</sup>, S. Díaz-Vergara<sup>18</sup>, S.A.F. Duarte<sup>2,3</sup>, C. Espírito Santo<sup>19</sup>, T. Ekrem<sup>20</sup>, V. Fernandez-Gonzalez<sup>21</sup>, J. Ferrario<sup>22</sup>, I. Frutos<sup>1,17</sup>, P. Gadawski<sup>1</sup>, I. Gestoso<sup>23,10,24</sup>, V. Gerovasileiou<sup>16,25</sup>, A. Gittenberger<sup>26</sup>, B. Gouillieux<sup>27</sup>, J.M. Guerra-García<sup>28</sup>, C. Houbin<sup>29</sup>, L.E. Hughes<sup>30</sup>, A. Jablonska<sup>1</sup>, M. Lampa<sup>31,32</sup>, V. Le Garrec<sup>10</sup>, J.-C. Leclerc<sup>33</sup>, S. Lo Brutto<sup>6,7</sup>, E. Mancini<sup>34,35</sup>, A. Marchini<sup>22</sup>, G. Martínez-Lai<sup>28</sup>, M. Moal<sup>33</sup>, P. Moretti<sup>22</sup>, N. Mosbahi<sup>36</sup>, C. Navarro-Barranco<sup>28</sup>, S. Navarro-Mayoral<sup>37</sup>, C. Olabarría<sup>38</sup>, J.-P. Pezy<sup>15</sup>, J.P.R. Pinheiro<sup>2,3</sup>, W. Plaiti<sup>16</sup>, P. Ramalhosa<sup>11,12</sup>, A. Raoux<sup>38</sup>, G.O. Reis<sup>1,40</sup>, T. Revanales<sup>41</sup>, T. Rewicz<sup>1</sup>, R.S. Ribeiro<sup>4,42,43</sup>, M. Ros<sup>28</sup>, S. Ruiz-Velasco<sup>28</sup>, P. Saenz-Arias<sup>28</sup>, F. Schlicklin<sup>12</sup>, J. Sempere-Valverde<sup>14</sup>, J. Tempesti<sup>44</sup>, E. Thiébaud<sup>33</sup>, F. Tiralongo<sup>45,46</sup>, J.S. Troncoso<sup>37</sup>, F. Viard<sup>47</sup>, Y. Wang<sup>48</sup>, M. Grabowski<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Hydrobiology, University of Lodz, Banacha 12/16, 90-237 Lodz; <sup>2</sup> Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA) and ARNET-Aquatic Research Network, Department of Biology, University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, Braga, Portugal; <sup>3</sup> Institute of Science and Innovation for Bio-Sustainability (IB-S), University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, Braga, Portugal; <sup>4</sup> MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, ARNET – Aquatic Research Network, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa Campo Grande, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal; <sup>5</sup> Osaka Museum of Natural History, Nagai Park, Higashi-Sumiyoshi, Osaka 546-0034 Japan; <sup>6</sup> Department of Earth and Marine Sciences, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; <sup>7</sup> National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), Piazza Marina 61, 90133 Palermo, Italy; <sup>8</sup> Dipartimento Stato dell’Ambiente, ARPA Lazio, 00173 Rome, Italy; <sup>9</sup> Department of Biology, University of Florence, Via Madonna del Piano 6 50019 Sesto Fiorentino, Firenze, Italy; <sup>10</sup> Univ Brest, CNRS, IRD, Ifremer, LEMAR, IUEM, F-29280 Plouzané, France; <sup>11</sup> MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre / ARNET - Aquatic Research Network, Agência Regional para o Desenvolvimento da Investigação Tecnologia e Inovação (ARDITI) Funchal, Madeira, Portugal. <sup>12</sup> Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo, Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), CSIC, Subida a, Radio Faro, 50, 36390 Vigo, Spain; <sup>13</sup> National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS), Italy; <sup>14</sup> Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering (BESE), Red Sea Research Center (RSRC), Marine Science Program, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Thuwal 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia; <sup>15</sup> UNICAEN, Laboratoire Morphodynamique Continentale et Côtière, CNRS UMR 6143 M2C, Normandie Univer., 24 rue des Tilleuls, 14000 Caen, France; <sup>16</sup> Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC), Thalassocosmos, Gournes, Crete, Greece; <sup>17</sup> Institut de Systématique, Évolution, Biodiversité ISYEB-UMR 7205, Muséum national d’Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, CP26, 75005 Paris, France; <sup>18</sup> Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, IU-ECOQUA, Biodiversidad y Conservación (BIOCON), Parque Científico Tecnológico Marino, 35200 Telde, Las Palmas, Spain; <sup>19</sup> MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, ARNET – Aquatic Research Network, Laboratório de Ciências do Mar (CIEMAR), Escola de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade de Évora, 7521-903 Sines, Portugal; <sup>20</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway; <sup>21</sup> Department of Marine Sciences and Applied Biology. University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain; <sup>22</sup> Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Pavia, 27100 Pavia, Italy; <sup>23</sup> Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Department of Biology, Faculty of Marine and Environmental Sciences, University of Cádiz, Puerto Real, Cádiz, Spain; <sup>24</sup> Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre, Edgewater, MD, USA. <sup>25</sup> Department of Environment, Faculty of Environment, Ionian University, Zakynthos, Greece; <sup>26</sup> GiMARIS, Rijksweg 75, 2171 AK Sassenheim, The Netherlands; <sup>27</sup> Université

de Bordeaux, CNRS, Bordeaux INP, EPOC, UMR 5805, 33600 Pessac, France; <sup>28</sup> Laboratorio de Biología Marina, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Seville, Spain; <sup>29</sup> Sorbonne Université, CNRS, OSU STAMAR, UAR 2017, Station Biologique de Roscoff, Place Georges Teissier, 29680 Roscoff, France; <sup>30</sup> Life Science Department, Natural History Museum, London, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, United Kingdom; <sup>31</sup> Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Institute of Oceanography (IO), Thalassocosmos, Gournes, Crete, Greece; <sup>32</sup> Marine Ecology Laboratory, Department of Biology, University of Crete, 70013 Heraklion, Greece; <sup>33</sup> Sorbonne Université, CNRS, UMR 7144 AD2M, Station Biologique de Roscoff, Place Georges Teissier, 29680 Roscoff, France; <sup>34</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologia Biologica ed Ambientali, DiSTeBA, University of Salento, 73100, Lecce, Italy; <sup>35</sup> National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), 90100 Palermo, Italy; <sup>36</sup> Laboratoire de Biodiversité Marine et Environnement, Faculté des Sciences de Sfax, Université de Sfax, BP 1171, 3038, Sfax, Tunisia; <sup>37</sup> Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, IU-ECOQUA, Biodiversidad y Conservación (BIOCON), Parque Científico Tecnológico Marino, 35200 Telde, Las Palmas, Spain; <sup>38</sup> CIM - Centro de Investigación Mariña and Departamento de Ecoloxía e Bioloxía Animal, Facultade de Ciencias do Mar, Universidade de Vigo, Spain; <sup>39</sup> UNICAEN, Laboratoire Morphodynamique Continentale et Côtière, CNRS UMR 6143 M2C, Normandie Univer., 24 rue des Tilleuls, 14000 Caen, France; <sup>40</sup> Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia Animal, Departamento de Zoologia (Laboratório de Carcinologia), Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil; <sup>41</sup> Departamento de Biología, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Marina (INMAR), Universidad de Cádiz, Campus Universitario de Puerto Real, 11510, Puerto Real, Cádiz, Spain; <sup>42</sup> Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Setúbal, Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, Estefanilha, 2910-761 Setúbal, Portugal; <sup>43</sup> MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Center/ARNET – Aquatic Research Network, Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal. IPS Campus – Estefanilha. 2910-761 Setúbal, Portugal; <sup>44</sup> Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Pisa, Via Derna, 1 – 56126 Pisa, Italia; <sup>45</sup> Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania, Catania, Italy; <sup>46</sup> Ente Fauna Marina Mediterranea, Avola, Italy; <sup>47</sup> ISEM, Univ de Montpellier, CNRS, EPHE, IRD, Montpellier, France; <sup>48</sup> Laboratory of Marine Organism Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao 266071, China

The Mediterranean Sea and adjacent basins host a rich diversity of amphipod crustaceans, yet a comprehensive molecular reference library is still lacking. To address this gap, MEDAMP was launched as an open, collaborative initiative dedicated to building a curated DNA barcode library for this crucial group. We encourage contributions of morphologically identified specimens for standardized cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) sequencing. To date, MEDAMP has processed over 1000 specimens from across the region. This growing dataset provides invaluable contributions for species identification and implementation of environmental DNA tools, uncovering cryptic diversity and informing phylogenetic research. The resulting sequences and associated metadata (including locality, habitat, images, and taxonomy) are deposited in the BOLD system database and will soon be publicly accessible. As one of the first results, the introduced *Aoroides longimerus* Ren & Zheng, 1996 was reported for the first time in several countries, expanding its Atlantic and Mediterranean distribution, providing reference sequences, and confirming its identification through morphology and DNA comparison with native specimens from Japan. Ongoing efforts focus on expanding both geographic and taxonomic coverage and incorporating additional genetic markers for multiple species. MEDAMP fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing, aiming to significantly enhance our understanding of Mediterranean amphipod biodiversity, facilitate ecological and evolutionary research, and support conservation efforts in this biodiversity hotspot. We invite the research community and enthusiasts to contribute to this essential resource.