



80° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



UNIONE ZOOLOGICA ITALIANA  
IN COLLABORAZIONE CON  
COMITATO SCIENTIFICO PER LA FAUNA D'ITALIA

RIASSUNTI  
DELLE COMUNICAZIONI E DEI POSTER

*a cura di*

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ISBN – 9788883442445

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Viale G. Marconi 446 00146 Roma, Italia

CON IL PATROCINIO DI



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



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TOR VERGATA  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

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**SICILIAN AMPHIPODA FAUNA:  
GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

The species richness, abundance and assemblage structure of the marine crustacean amphipods from Sicilian coast (southern Italy) were studied at different stations and from literature, comprising different habitats, such as *Posidonia oceanica* or *Sabellaria alveolata* reef. This dataset led to the identification of 127 species and 31 families, 16 species of which were new records for Sicily. Some species were present on the four sides of the island, North – East – South and Western coast, being present in the different biogeographical regions of the central Mediterranean (i.e. *Caprella acanthifera*, *Dexamine spiniventris*, *Hyale camptonyx* and *Erichthonius brasiliensis*). Other species, *Biancolina algicola*, *Microdeutopus anomalus*, *Tethylembos viguieri*, *Pseudolirius kroyerii*, *Cressa dubia*, *Guernea coalita*, *Gammarus insensibilis*, *Hyale pontica*, *Microjassa cumbrensis*, *Melita hergensis*, *Perioculodes aequimanus*, *Podocerus schieckei*, *Lepidepecreum longicornis* and *Urothoe elegans*, were present in single localities. The mostly diversified families are the Aoridae (with fifteen species), the Caprellidae (with fourteen species) and Maeridae (with twelve species). As a result of this study, new species can be added to the inventory of the Italian marine amphipod fauna. Some of the actual non indigenous species distribution hotspots are located in Sicily, which accounts for high number of alien taxa. Regarding the Sicily Island it has been outlined its role as crossroad for invasions routes from the Atlantic Ocean and the Indo-Pacific area. The role of Sicily Island as sentinel for Mediterranean bioinvasions is discussed. Unfortunately, literature on marine Sicilian Amphipoda fauna is limited. This southern Italian region has been scarcely investigated for the last fifty years, and scientific world should be aware of this gap.