

AMPHIPODA: TOWARDS NEW PERSPECTIVES



20TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON AMPHIPODA

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



**FACULTY OF BIOLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
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by the Department of Invertebrate Zoology & Hydrobiology,
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The current marine amphipod fauna of Italy: A 2010-onwards reviewing

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Checklists are a key tool for understanding the effects of climate change, anthropogenic impacts on animal and plant communities and improving knowledge of the state-of-the-art of local and regional biodiversity. In this context, the updating of the checklist of the amphipods in Italian seas—last updated in 2010 by Ruffo with a total of 457 species—was produced as part of a broader effort to enhance Mediterranean biodiversity. The dataset incorporates changes in nomenclature, new records in Italian waters and new occurrences of previously detected species in the biogeographic sectors proposed by Bianchi in 2004. By combining scientific literature with unpublished data, 497 amphipod species were recorded. Forty-one species are new Italian records. Six species previously treated as distinct by Ruffo in 2010 were successively synonymized and are now imputable to 3 species. Among the 41 new recorded species, eight were non-indigenous species (NIS) for the Mediterranean. This data elevates the current total of allochthonous amphipod species in Italian seas to 12. Regarding the distribution, 716 species were confirmed in the sectors where they had already been recorded, while 656 species were reported for sectors from which they were previously absent. Most of the data was collected in the upper Adriatic basin, and many records resulted from surveys carried out under the Marine Strategy framework. This study provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the diversity and distribution of amphipods in Italian seas. Information on the zoogeographical distribution, bathymetry and substrate preference of the species were also provided. However, further sampling and monitoring are still needed, particularly for planktonic species—of which few new records exist—as well as parasitic forms and those inhabiting extreme marine environments.