



XIV Congresso
Italiano
di Teriologia



eurac
research

Associazione
Teriologica
Italiana

XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy Eurac Research

**Bolzano, Viale Druso 1, 39100
3-5 June 2026**

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Leonardo Ancillotto, Sandro Bertolino, Michele Bresadola, Michela Corsini, Romina Fusillo, Stefano Grignolio, Valentina La Morgia, Ilaria Melcore, Emiliano Mori, Chiara Paniccia, Marco Scalisi, Laura Scillitani

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Leonardo Ancillotto, Sandro Bertolino, Francesca Cagnacci, Luca Corlatti, Romina Fusillo, Stefano Grignolio, Achaz von Hardenberg, Valentina La Morgia, Ilaria Melcore, Emiliano Mori, Chiara Paniccia, Marco Scalisi, Clara Tattoni



I CIRCULAR

The Organizing Committee and the Italian Mammal Society are pleased to invite you to participate in the **14th Italian Congress of Mammalogy**, which will take place in **Bolzano**, at the **Eurac Research headquarters**, from **3 to 5 June 2026**.

The Congress is one of the most engaging and well-attended events for exchanging experiences and knowledge about the biology, ecology, and conservation of mammals in Italy. It brings together researchers, professionals, public administrators, and enthusiasts.

The 2026 edition will be held in the evocative setting of Eurac Research and the city of Bolzano, nestled in the Eastern Alps. This scenario provides a unique and meaningful venue for our Society's most important and cherished event. The Congress will be structured into sessions addressing both general themes and more specific topics. The program will span three days, concluding on the afternoon of **Friday, June 5**.

The Council of Young Mammalogists will introduce two awards aimed at researchers under 35: the **Best Poster Award** and the **Best Talk Award**. To qualify, candidates must not turn 35 before 20 January **2026** and must be the first authors of their submitted works. For the Best Talk Award, the oral presentation must be delivered by the candidate themselves.

The Congress will also feature a **themed photo exhibition**, showcasing the creativity and passion of its members.

The **Best Paper Award** will be conferred to the top article published in *Hystrix, the Italian Journal of Mammalogy*, over the past two years, authored by a young researcher under 35 who has submitted their application.

Strong participation from our members is highly anticipated throughout three days devoted to insightful discussions and the exchange of scientific research..



ORAL SESSIONS

1. Ecology and conservation of mammals in a changing world

Coordinators: Leonardo Ancillotto and Achaz von Hardenberg

Natural and semi-natural environments are becoming increasingly vulnerable to global changes, including climate warming, land use modifications, and growing human pressure. These processes can lead to alterations at multiple levels and scales, from the genetic and genomic level to the species' geographical distribution, strongly influencing ecological interactions within animal communities. This session aims to explore the impact of such transformations on mammals, analysing their responses to environmental changes and assessing effective conservation strategies to facilitate species adaptation to rapidly changing conditions.

This session aims to collect contributions that address the effects of global change on genetics, distribution, and ecology of mammal species, adaptive responses at species and community levels, and the role of protected areas in mitigating impacts and safeguarding biodiversity.

2. Behavioural strategies in mammals: Evolutionary adaptations to environmental pressures

Coordinators: Stefano Grignolio and Francesca Cagnacci

Behaviour is one of the most dynamic and flexible dimensions through which mammals respond to environmental and evolutionary pressures. The diversity of behavioural repertoires reflects a broad spectrum of adaptive strategies shaped by ecological constraints, evolutionary history, and social structure. This session aims to explore mammalian behaviour from the perspective of behavioural ecology, as an adaptive strategy to cope with complex environments. Particular attention will be dedicated to behavioural plasticity, as the capacity to modify actions in response to



environmental conditions, and to personality traits and their role in survival and reproductive strategies. This flexibility not only enables immediate adaptation to environmental variation but may also promote long-term evolutionary change. Priority will be given to studies illustrating how behavioural mechanisms enable mammals to colonise diverse environments and respond to rapid changes. In addition, contributions emphasizing the practical implications of this knowledge for conservation, population management, conflict mitigation with human activities, and the enhancement of ecosystem quality will be especially welcomed.

3. Humans and mammals: social, economic and health implications

Coordinators: Marco Scalisi and Clara Tattoni

This session aims to explore the interconnections between humans and wild mammals, encompassing health-related issues, the One Health approach, and social and economic dynamics that shape human–wildlife conflicts, which have direct consequences for mammalian ecology. The human dimension will be examined through perceptions, behaviours, and cultural representations that influence the effectiveness and social acceptance of management strategies. Special focus will be placed on the role of stakeholders, operating at multiple levels, from rural communities and management bodies to political and public health decision-makers. A multidisciplinary perspective will be emphasised as an essential tool for integrating knowledge within a coherent analytical framework. Studies may explore human–mammal conflicts by analysing their economic, social, and health dimensions. In this context, particular consideration will be given to research addressing topics such as economic losses attributed to wild mammals, zoonotic risks, the psychosocial well-being of local communities, and, more broadly, the human dimensions of mammal conservation and management. Studies focusing on participatory strategies and inclusive governance models, as well as methodological and operational approaches aimed at reducing conflict and fostering coexistence between humans and mammals, are also encouraged.



4. High-Elevation Sentinels: mammals and mountain ecosystems

Coordinators: Valentina La Morgia and Luca Corlatti

Mountain regions cover less than one-fifth of the Earth's terrestrial surface yet are home to approximately one-third of all terrestrial species and include around half of the planet's major biodiversity hotspots. In these ecosystems, mountain mammals act as critical sentinels of environmental change. Their ecological specialisation and narrow tolerance ranges make them particularly sensitive indicators of ongoing environmental transformations. This session draws inspiration from the alpine setting of the Congress and aims to highlight the conservation challenges faced by mammal populations in high-elevation environments. Contributions are invited on adaptations and shifts in species distribution and richness along elevational gradients, phenotypic and behavioural plasticity, and alterations in community structure and trophic interactions.

The session will also consider the ecological consequences of habitat fragmentation, tourism pressures, and the effects of both the abandonment and intensification of traditional land-use practices. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of mammals as bioindicators of environmental change and as key determinants of the resilience and functional integrity of mountain and alpine ecosystems. Applied and management-oriented perspectives will also be considered. Case studies demonstrating how empirical evidence can inform land-use planning, ecosystem management, and conservation policy in mountain regions will be particularly valued.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

We warmly invite you to register and take part in the Congress.

The deadline for submission of contributions is 20 January 2026. Members with an active 2026 membership who register by this date will benefit from a reduced registration fee. After the deadline, registration will still be possible at the full rate, but without the option to submit contributions.

During the online registration process, participants must indicate the **Session** they wish to join and specify whether their contribution is an **oral presentation** or a **poster**. The **Scientific Committee** reserves the right to select oral presentations based on the number of submissions received, the originality and relevance to the session themes, and its compliance with abstract guidelines.

Each participant may present max. **two contributions** (one oral and one poster). Contributions not selected for oral sessions will automatically be included in the poster session. If authors decline a format change of presentation (from oral to poster or vice versa) and withdraw, **the registration fee cannot be refunded**.

All **abstracts, slides, and posters** must be prepared in **English**. Oral presentations may be delivered either in **Italian** or **English**, at the speaker's discretion.

Notification of acceptance and the outcome of the review process will be communicated by **31 March 2026**.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration will open on **December 1, 2025**. To register and submit your contribution, please visit the dedicated webpage for the **14th Italian Congress of Mammalogy**: <https://www.mammiferi.org/eventi/xiv-congresso-italiano-di-teriologia/>

For administrative reasons, **registration and participation** in the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy** are limited to associated members for 2026.



Only members who have paid their 2026 membership fee prior to abstract submission may submit contributions (oral presentations and posters). Members who wish to attend the Congress without presenting a contribution may register online by April 31, 2026.

Payment details: The registration fee must be paid via bank transfer to the following account:

Account no. 00000010786, held by *Associazione Teriologica Italiana* at *Banca Territori del Monviso*.

Please include your NAME and SURNAME, followed by “Registration XIV Congresso ATIt” in the payment reference.

IBAN code: IT88C0883301003000000010786

Important note: Abstracts will not be accepted unless both the 2026 membership fee and the Congress registration fee have been received.

REGISTRATION FEES

In line with previous editions, the **Organising Committee of the XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy** aims to encourage participation of **young members** and those **without reimbursement opportunities**.

The registration fee includes:

- **Access to Congress sessions** (June 3-5, 2026)
- A digital **volume of abstracts**
- **Coffee breaks**
- A **welcome aperitif** held in conjunction with the poster session

Please note that the registration fee does not cover meals, accommodation, transportation, or the social dinner.



Until 20 January
2026

From 21 January
2026

STANDARD FEE

Employees of public or private institutions, independent professionals/freelancer, or other individuals, including PhD candidates or students, who are eligible for reimbursement of registration fees.

€ 170,00

€ 220,00

REDUCED FEE

Employees of public or private institutions, independent professionals/freelancers, or other individuals, including PhD candidates or students holding a contract, who are not eligible for reimbursement of registration fees.

€ 120,00

€ 170,00

STUDENT OR RECENT GRADUATE FEE

Students, PhD candidates without a scholarship or any other form of contract, and recent graduates (within one year of graduation) who are not employed and are not eligible for reimbursement of registration fees.

€ 70,00

€ 120,00

Important note: To qualify for the reduced registration fee, participants must include a self-declaration with their bank transfer receipt. This self-declaration in accordance with Article 47 of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000, must confirm eligibility under one of the specified beneficiary categories and clearly indicate the relevant category. Members can access the self-declaration form within the online registration module.



HOW TO PREPARE THE ABSTRACT

Abstracts must be written in **English**, and saved in either **Word** or **RTF** format, adhering to the following the editorial guidelines below:

- **Title:** Times New Roman, font size 14, uppercase, centred, bold.
- **Authors:** surname followed by initials, Times New Roman, font size 12, uppercase, centred.
- **Affiliations and author addresses:** Times New Roman, font size 11, centred, single line spacing.
- **Text:** Times New Roman, font size 12, justified, single line spacing.

General guidelines:

- Abstracts must not include references, citations, tables, or figures.
- The entire text, including all sections, must fit within an area of **17 × 24 cm**, with **2 cm margins** on all sides.

Abstracts must clearly indicate the **aim of the study**, the **methods used**, the **results obtained**, and the **relevance to the session topic**.

To guarantee clarity and consistency, abstracts must be structured into **four untitled paragraphs**: *Introduction*, *Methods*, *Results*, and *Discussion*.

Abstracts that do not adhere to this structure or do not include results will be given lower priority for oral presentation.

An **abstract template** is **available here**.



SOCIAL EVENTS

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to remind members that, on the occasion of the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy**, our Society will hold elections for the renewal of its board members, including the **President, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Board, Publications Director, Board of Auditors**, and the **Coordinating Committees** of all specialist groups.

Online voting will open on **3 June 2026 at 09:00** and will close on **4 June 2026 at 16:00**.

All information regarding the procedures for submitting nominations will be communicated to members and made available on the Association's website: www.mammiferi.org.

SOCIALIZZATIt

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

In the afternoon of 3 June, the Organising Committee will offer a welcome aperitif.

SOCIAL DINNER AND AESTASI'ATIt

Thursday 4 June 2026, at 20:00

Details regarding the venue, costs, and the procedures for booking and payment of the social dinner will be announced later on the page dedicated to the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy**.

The dinner will offer traditional dishes from South Tyrol, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. During the same evening, the traditional AESTASI'ATIt event will take place, featuring an auction of theriology-themed items that each participant is encouraged to bring along. The proceeds from the auction will contribute to supporting the Society's youth-oriented initiatives. Items intended for the auction should be delivered to the Congress Secretariat, which will also provide all relevant information regarding the organisation and conduct of the auction.



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MEMBERS

Thursday, June 4, 2026

During the annual members' Assembly, the activities carried out over the two-year period will be presented and the newly elected governing bodies for the 2026/2028 term will be announced.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION CURATED BY THE COUNCIL OF YOUNG MAMMALOGISTS

The Council of Young Mammalogists is organising a themed **Photography Exhibition**, only for ATIt members. The competition comprises four categories: **Eco-Interactions**, **Camera Trapping**, **Urban Mammals**, and **Young Photographers** (under 35 years of age as of 20 January 2026). The **official launch** of the competition is scheduled for **17 November 2025**.

The **twelve finalist photographs** will be selected by a jury composed of three professional photographers: **Marco Colombo**, **Matteo Luciani**, and **Paolo Taranto**. The selected works will be exhibited during the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy**, hosted at the **main headquarters of Eurac Research**.

Awards will be presented to the **top three entries** in each category, each of whom will receive a **professional print of their photograph**. In addition, the **first-place winner** of each category will be awarded a copy of the **Atlas of Mammals in Italy**.

BEST TALK AWARD

The **Council of Young Mammalogists** promotes the **Best Talk Award**, dedicated to researchers under 35 (who have not reached their 35th birthday by **20 January 2026**). The award aims to encourage and recognise the scientific work of young members. Oral presentations will be evaluated by a panel of experts (**Session Coordinators**).

The award ceremony will take place at the end of the Congress, on **Friday, 5 June, at 16:00**.



BEST POSTER AWARD

The **Council of Young Mammalogists** promotes the **Best Poster Award**, reserved for researchers **under 35** (who have not turned 35 by 20 January 2026). The award aims to **encourage and recognise** the scientific work of young members of the Society.

The **evaluation of the posters** will be carried out by a jury composed of the coordinators of the expert groups **GRiMeC**, **GPM**, **GLAMM**, and **GIRC**. The **award ceremony** will take place at the **conclusion of the Congress**, on **Friday, 5 June, at 16:00**.

BEST PAPER AWARD

The award ceremony of the **Best Paper Award**, promoted by *Hystrix, the Italian Journal of Mammalogy* will take place at the conclusion of the **Congress**, on **Friday, 5 June, at 16:00**.

CLOSING REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE CONGRESS

The final award ceremony, during which all prizes will be presented, will take place at the end of **the Congress**, on **Friday, 5 June, at 16:00**.

MEETINGS OF SPECIALIST GROUPS

The meetings of the expert groups **GRiMeC**, **GPM**, **GLAMM**, and **GIRC** will take place on **Friday, 5 June, at 16:30**, in dedicated rooms.

EXCURSION

On Saturday, **6 June**, a guided **excursion to Lake Carezza** will be organised in collaboration with the **Latemar Forestry School**. Further details will be available on the dedicated webpage of the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy**.

Additional post-congress afternoon excursions are also being planned, offering participants the opportunity to visit the **Ötzi Museum** and to take part in a **Bat Night**.

More information will be announced shortly on the page dedicated to the **XIV Italian Congress of Mammalogy**.



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Further information on the Congress and logistics will be available at:

www.atit2026.it/en

The logo and graphics were created by **Silke De Vivo** and **Chiara Mariz** for **Eurac Research** and the **Italian Mammal Society**.
