



XI Congress of the Italian Mammal Society



School of Law - University of Florence
Via delle Pandette, 32

Florence
20-22 June 2018

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Anna Loy, Paolo Agnelli, Carlo Citterio, Leonardo Ancillotto, Filomena Carpino, Giulia Guidarelli, Emiliano Mori, Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, Mattia Menchetti, Damiano Preatoni, Marco Riccucci, Giulia Sozio, Marco Zaccaroni

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Giovanni Amori, Paolo Agnelli, Francesco Maria Angelici, Sandro Bertolino, Riccardo Castiglia, Paolo Colangelo, Giulia Guidarelli, Anna Loy, Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, Andrea Monaco, Emiliano Mori, Nicola Ferrari, Massimo Scandura, Giulia Sozio, Clara Tattoni, Luc Armand Wauters



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The Italian Mammal Society is pleased to invite you to the XI Italian Congress of Mammalogy from June the 20th to the 22nd of 2018 at the School of Law of the University of Florence. The Congress is organized in collaboration with the School of Law and “La Specola” Museum of the University of Florence and, again for this edition, with the Italian Society of Wildlife eco-pathology (SIEF).

The Italian Mammal Society Congress is traditionally one of the most stimulating events for sharing experience and knowledge on the biology, ecology and conservation of wild mammals between researchers, experts, wildlife managers and passionate public. In this edition the city of Florence will be the beautiful frame of the most important periodic event for our Association and we hope you all will join us. Oral communications will mainly be in Italian, with slides and posters in English.

Xavier Lambin (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom), known for his excellent long-term interdisciplinary studies on voles, will open our Congress with a plenary lecture. The Congress will have four sessions, one workshop and a poster session. Moreover, this year we have also invited a speaker for the opening of each session of the Congress. More details about each speech will be reported in the next communications.

PLENARY LECTURE

Xavier Lambin (University of Aberdeen, UK)

SESSIONS

1. TAXONOMY, SYSTEMATICS AND EVOLUTION IN MAMMALS

Chairmen: Giovanni Amori, Francesco Maria Angelici, Riccardo Castiglia, Paolo Colangelo

Invited speaker: **Anna Bannikova** (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia)

Systematics and taxonomy are fundamental tools for the study of biodiversity. In fact, the correct delimitation of the species, integrated by their evolutionary history and the description of their adaptations, represents a fundamental prerequisite in any field of biological diversity investigation. The session proposes to present studies that, through different approaches (phylogeny, phylogeography, comparative morphology, morphometry, etc.), can provide useful information for a correct estimate of the biological diversity in mammals, current and past. Moreover, in this session will be present studies that will allow a better understanding of the evolutionary processes that are

at the origin of mammal diversity, offering also instruments for a systematic and nomenclatural interpretation, as objective as possible.

2. ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS OF MAMMALS: COMMUNITY, POPULATION, SPECIES

Chairmen: Luc Armand Wauters, Emiliano Mori, Nicola Ferrari

Invited speaker: **John Koprowski** (University of Arizona)

Individual animals show variation in behaviour to deal with their intrinsic and extrinsic environment. Traditionally, evolutionary theories assumed that behaviour is centred on a single adaptive optimum, or on two or more co-existing evolutionary stable strategies. However, over the past two decades, researchers have discovered that an individual may be constrained and behave sub-optimally because of its personality type, and that differences in personality might have important implications for understanding individual processes but also group-level (population) processes. Moreover, almost every aspect of an animal's behaviour is associated with exposure to some type of parasite, and host-parasite interactions can have important effects on host population dynamics.

To increase our knowledge of this “interface” between behaviour-parasites-population dynamics in mammals, this session of the ATIt congress welcomes all contributions on behaviour, host-parasite interactions and population dynamics. We will give priority to studies on variation in behaviour among individuals and their consequences for fitness components: (i) effects of behaviour/personality on host-parasite interactions (ii) effects of parasites on host fitness and population dynamics and (iii) the role of variation in behaviour at (social) group-level or population level.

3. EVIDENCE BASED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MAMMALS

Chairmen: Sandro Bertolino, Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, Massimo Scandura

Invited speaker: **William Sutherland** (University of Cambridge)

Wildlife management and conservation often implies direct actions on animal populations and habitats. Man manipulates both populations and habitats for the conservation of one or more species, for a sustainable harvesting on game species, or for the intensive control of alien species. Planning such actions and, more in general, the implementation of conservation policies should rely on robust scientific data, assessing the effectiveness of previous interventions. The availability of such data requires: i) a careful definition of methodologically rigorous studies aimed at providing quantitative measures of positive/negative effects of specific management actions, ii) the

dissemination of the main achievements across the scientific community and managers involved in conservation, and iii) the actual implementation of the proposed good practices, supported by scientific evidences.

Main goal of this session is to present studies which have rigorously and quantitatively measured the effects of management and conservation actions on mammal populations, or researches offering strong and relevant information supporting the implementation of new management practices.

4. NEW APPROACHES TO MAMMAL RESEARCH

Chairmen: Anna Loy, Giulia Guidarelli, Giulia Sozio

Invited speakers: **Orly Razgour** (University of Southampton, UK) and

Carlo Meloro (Liverpool John Moore University, UK)

The quantity and accuracy of reliable information on individuals, populations and species is a critical factor for the success of mammals' management and conservation strategies. Mammalogy is among the most active fields for experimentation of new techniques and multidisciplinary approaches to field research and museum collections. The session aims to present and discuss limits and applications of integrated approaches to the monitoring of populations and species (occupancy models, non-invasive genetics, environmental DNA, landscape genetics, niche models, distribution and connectivity) and the exploration of variability (comparative methods and eco-geography).

WORKSHOP

PROTECTED AREAS, WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES AND MUSEUMS: MEETING POINTS BETWEEN RESEARCH, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Coordinators: Giovanni Amori, Paolo Agnelli, Andrea Monaco, Clara Tattoni

Protected areas, wildlife parks and museums play an important role in conservation and research in the field of mammals. At the same time, they are also places where it is possible to carry out popular and recreational activities, exploiting direct contact between the public and mammals to transmit scientific concepts, promote virtuous behaviour and break down prejudices and superstitions on animals. The multiple purposes sometimes merge, as for example in the case of citizen science projects that, through the involvement of the public, aim to define the conservation status of the species and improve its management. Another example is the observation of mammals in the wild, both by private initiative and in conservation projects, able to bring social and economic benefits to

local communities, but whose effects on the ecology of mammals have not yet been fully investigated. The scientific contributions expected in this session will have to highlight the indispensable role of protected areas, wildlife parks and museums for the study and conservation of mammals. Examples of research carried out starting from museum collections will be accepted; networking initiatives between protected areas, wildlife parks and museums for the study and conservation of mammals; studies conducted on the basis of data collected through citizen science initiatives; examples of studies on the economic and social repercussions of recreational activities related to mammals; studies on the ecological and ethological effects caused by the organized and repeated observation of mammals.

The Workshop will also be an opportunity to present a new volume of the ATIt series dedicated to the information on various aspects of the management, communication and conservation of mammals. The new volume in preparation is dedicated to behavioural rules to be held in different situations in which people can contact mammals.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Registration and abstract submission are available at <https://www.mammiferi.org/eventi/xi-congresso-italiano-teriologia/>

Please, fill all the required fields at the bottom of the page and upload your abstract and your bank transfer receipt, following the instructions on the website. Registrations will not be accepted without the payment receipt.

Registration fee can be paid on the bank account number 001034838399, headed to: Associazione Teriologica Italiana, at Bancoposta - Poste Italiane, reporting in the "cause" field: YOUR NAME + YOUR SURNAME and "Iscrizione XI Congresso ATIt".

IBAN Code: IT39P0760103200001034838399.
BIC/SWIFT: BPPIITRRXXX

Registration and fee payment will also be available at the front desk during the Congress by cash in Euros. The fee will be considered as a late registration.

REGISTRATION FEES

We encourage the participation of young researchers, in particular ATIt and SIEF members.

	Before 30 th March 2018	After 30 th March 2018
ATIt and SIEF members (employed on public or private institutions, professionals) in good standing with 2018 member fee	170 €	220 €
NOT MEMBERS (employed on public or private institutions, professionals)	220 €	270 €
ATIt and SIEF members (NOT employed on public or private institutions) in good standing with 2018 member fee	50 €	100 €
NOT MEMBERS (not employed on public or private institutions, professionals)	90 €	140 €

The registration fee includes:

- participation to the Congress;
- abstract volume (in digital and paper format);
- coffee breaks;
- Happy hour on June the 20th with the SOCIALIZZ-ATIt event (organized by the Young Mammalogist Council - CoGiT).

The fee does not include expenses for food, lodging and transport.

HOW TO PREPARE AND SEND THE CONTRIBUTIONS

The abstract must be prepared **in English**, in Word (.doc; .docx) or RTF format, as it follows:

- Title: font Times New Roman 12, centered, NOT uppercase
- Authors' surname followed by the initial of the first name: font Times New Roman 11, centered, NOT uppercase;
- Email address of the corresponding author and affiliations of all authors: font Times New Roman 10, centered
- Text: font Times New Roman 10, justified, single spacing. It must not include bibliography, bibliographic citations, tables and figures. The text, including all its parts, **must not exceed 500 words.**

For this congress, abstracts should clearly show the aims of the work, followed methods, obtained results, and the impact on the session topic. Abstract have therefore to be divided into 4 paragraphs:

Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion. Register and send your abstract at the following address:

<https://www.mammiferi.org/eventi/xi-congresso-italiano-teriologia/>

following the instructions on the website.

Usually, the number of sent contributions for presentations far exceeds the available time span. It is therefore in the interest of the authors to provide elements, in particular the results, sufficient to evaluate the completeness and the interest of the submitted abstract. **Abstract in different layouts will not be considered.**

We ask participants to respect the decisions of the Scientific Committee regarding the selection of oral contributions.

SOCIAL EVENTS

SOCIALIZZ-ATIt

Wednesday 20th June 2018

As we successfully tested during the previous ATIt Congress, a happy hour will be offered at the exhibition site of the posters to allow greater visibility and discussion of the same.

ATIt SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

Thursday 21st June 2018

The results of the elections of the new President and Directive Board will also be communicated during the social assembly. The electoral seat will be open starting from the afternoon of Wednesday 20th June.

ATIt SPECIAL PRIZE

Since this congress edition, a special prize will be assigned to a member who has distinguished him/herself in the dynamics of our association. The prize will be conferred during the social assembly.

SOCIAL DINNER

Thursday 21st June 2018

The ATIt social dinner is always a moment of aggregation and conviviality among congress participants. In the same evening, the traditional AESTASI-ATIt will take place: objects with a

mammal theme that each of you is invited to bring will be auctioned. Obtained funds will be used to finance ATIt prizes and initiatives for young members.

During the congress, some initiatives promoted by the Young Mammalogist Council (CoGiT) will be presented.

LOGISTIC RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCOMMODATION

Being one of the most important Italian tourist destinations, Florence has a wide range of accommodations at a wide range of prices. However, we recommend you to book in advance as June is a month of high tourist flows. We are also working to get university residences available. Priority for university accommodations will be given to students. More details will be available on the congress webpage.

UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA

The self-service university CAFETERIA is located right in front of the congress center and it is open from 7.00 am to 9.00 pm. Instructions about cafeteria vouchers will be provided on the congress webpage.

TRANSPORTS

Florence is easily reachable from all over Italy by train, bus, car or plane. The School of Law of the University of Florence is located in **VIA DELLE PANDETTE 32, ZONA NOVOLI**.

A direct connection with the Santa Maria Novella Railway Station will be active with the new tramway. The School can still be reached on foot in 15 minutes from the Firenze Rifredi Railway Station.

We look forward to seeing you in Florence!

The ATIt Secretary
on behalf of the ATIt and SIEF Executive Boards

We sincerely thank Paola Boldrini, who created the logo of the congress.