



13th International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria and Porifera

"Looking back to see ahead"

Modena, 3-6 September 2019

under the patronage of



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



First Circular

We are pleased to invite you to the *13th International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria and Porifera*, that will be held in Modena (Italy) on 3-6 September 2019, at the **Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences (DSCG)** of the **University of Modena and Reggio Emilia**.

For the first time organized in Italy, the Symposium aims to bring together participants from all over the world to discuss and share the most recent advances of studies on fossil corals and sponges, coral reefs and associated biota. The theme for the upcoming Symposium *"Looking back to see ahead"* highlights the importance of the fossil archives to understand response of the biosphere to long term environmental perturbations. We promote interdisciplinary approaches from a body of interested paleontologists, biologists but also scholars in other disciplines, and aim to push new boundaries for coral science.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Modena!
The Organizing Committee



Venue

Modena is a beautiful city of 183,000 inhabitants located in the south side of the Po valley, very close to the Apennines, in the Emilia Romagna region of northern Italy. Modena is home to a wealth of artistic treasures, excellent gastronomy and famous motors. The main square of Modena, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, hosts one of the most beautiful medieval cathedrals in Italy. Today Modena is a good-living and friendly city. Among small roads and large squares, different flavours tempt the people to sit in cafes or restaurants to enjoy the pleasure of its various and rich cuisine, worldwide famous for Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale (traditional balsamic vinegar), tortellini (meat-filled pasta), Prosciutto di Modena (raw ham), Lambrusco (red wine), even if these are just some examples of the local gastronomy. The richness of Modena also lies in famous motors factories (Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini) and in important tiles exporting excellent-quality products all over the world.

The University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), founded in 1175, is one of the oldest universities in Italy. Nowadays, the University is composed of 14 departments, offering a wide range of degree programmes, with about 20,000 students.

The host of the Congress is the Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences (DSCG), the main teaching and research institute in the fields of chemistry, geology and natural sciences at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. It is housed in a newly inaugurated building (photo) located about 2.5 km from the historical centre.

Organizing Committee

Francesca Bosellini (Chair), *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Alessandro Vescogni, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Markus Aretz, *University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France*
Beatrice Fornaciari, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Simona Marchetti Dori, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Cesare Andrea Papazzoni, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Jarosław Stolarski, *Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Poland*

Scientific Committee

Francesca Bosellini (Chair), *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Markus Aretz, *University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France*
Stefano Goffredo, *University of Bologna, Italy*
Kenneth Johnson, *Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom*
Wolfgang Kiessling, *Geozentrum Nordbayern, University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany*
Jarosław Stolarski, *Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Poland*
Agostina Vertino, *Gent University, Belgium*





PROVISIONAL TOPICS/SESSIONS

The Congress will cover a wide range of topics that can be addressed independently from the type of organisms and time interval. Scientific sessions will be defined by the Scientific Committee and scheduled according to number and types of contributions.

The following general session topics are planned:

Studies of fossil skeletons: achievements and applications

- The fossil calibration of molecular trees;
- Skeletons as paleoenvironmental proxies;
- Biomineralization and diagenesis.

Taxonomy, Paleoecology and Evolution

- Advances in the taxonomy of fossil Cnidaria and Porifera;
- Biodiversity and evolutionary patterns through time: crises, radiations and the role of biogeography;
- Traits in space and time.

Bio-Geosphere interactions

- Deep, cold-water coral build-ups: past, present, future;
- Tropical reefs in space and time: a complex interplay between evolutionary and paleoenvironmental dynamics (session dedicated to Michaela Bernecker).

Travel and Accommodation

Maps and travel information how to reach Modena will be provided in the 2nd Circular and will be available on the Congress website.

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements. Modena offers a wide selection from cheap up to first class hotels. A list of hotels and B&B with special arrangements will be provided in the 2nd Circular and will be available on the Congress website.

Language of the Congress

English will be the official language of the Congress. No translation facilities will be provided.

CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

Conference Proceedings are planned for publication in one issue of the regular series (2020) of the international peer reviewed journal **Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana** (IF 2017: 0.912) which is housed at the Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

<http://paleoitalia.org/contribute/>

CONGRESS PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

- 30 August – 2 September 2019 : pre-congress excursions (E1, E2)
- 2 September 2019: registration and welcome party
- 3 – 6 September 2019: scientific sessions
- 6 September 2019 : General Assembly of IASFCP
- 7 September 2019: post-congress excursion E3
- 8 – 11 September 2019: post-congress excursion E4



REGISTRATION

Registration fees include: welcome party, admission to scientific sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks, congress kit, abstract book, Proceedings volume. Details concerning the mode of payment will be available in the 2nd Circular.

Visa application

Participants who require a support letter for visa application please directly contact:
info.13thfossilcnidaria@unimore.it

CONTACTS

Congress email:
info.13thfossilcnidaria@unimore.it

Return form

Before **30 November 2018**:

- Please fill the form at the link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceC8RW-IPZOt2tOzulRQwtgN6os5sj_kWFPd1AZ0S-XurrZA/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Or return the pdf form that you can download from the website (see REGISTRATION), by email to:

Fees	Early Registration before 30 April 2019	Late Registration After 30 April 2019
Professional	330€	450€
Student	220€	320€
Accompanying person	160€	260€

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Return form: 30 November 2018
- 2nd Circular: 31 January 2019
- Early registration: 30 April 2019
- Late registration: after 30 April 2019
- Abstract submission: 30 April 2019

Please save the date, spread the information among colleagues, and link the website. The website will be supplemented step-by-step with relevant information on the congress.



FIELD EXCURSIONS

Two pre-congress excursions and two post-congress excursions will be organized. A mid-conference half-day excursion in the Apennines nearby Modena may be organized according to final program of the scientific sessions. **Costs of the excursions will be provided with the 2nd Circular.**

Pre-Congress Excursions

E1. Devonian reefs of the Carnic Alps and related environments

Leaders: Carlo Corradini (Univ. Cagliari), Erika Kido (Univ. Graz), Thomas Suttner (NHM Vienna), Luca Simonetto (Udine Museum), Monica Pondrelli (Univ. Chieti-Pescara).

Presentation. In the Carnic Alps, located at the Italian/Austrian border, the largest Devonian reefs of Europe are exposed. They were mainly built by stromatoporoids, rugose and tabulate corals, calcisphaeres and populated by a variety of brachiopods, trilobites, crinoids, etc.

Beside the reefs, all the deposits from back reef to fore reef and basin are preserved in the Devonian of the Carnic Alps. During the four days field trip participants will have the chance to visit most of these sediments in a complete transect from shallow to deep water deposits. Also, pre-and post-reef rocks will be shown. The localities will be reached by short hikes, not more than one hour, in mountain environments. Visits to the Carnic Alps Geopark visiting centre in Dellach (Austria) and Timau (Italy) are scheduled.

Preliminary programme (4 days field trip)

- August 30 (Friday): departure from Modena in the early morning by minivans. Arrival at Cason di Lanza Pass in the early afternoon and visit to back reef outcrops ("Amphipora limestone"). Night at Cason di Lanza hut;
- August 31 (Saturday): the true reef deposits at Val di Collina quarry and brachiopod coquina at Porto Cozzi quarry. Other outcrops along the road and in Passo di Monte Croce Carnico/Plöckenpass area will be shown. Night in Mauthen (Austria);
- September 1 (Sunday): day dedicated to forereefs deposits in Mt. Lodin/Findenigkofel area, with solitary corals and other fossils, Night in Mauthen (Austria);
- September 2 (Monday): visit to post reef pelagic limestones in Pramosio area. Arrival in Modena in the afternoon.





Pre-Congress Excursions

E2. Upper Jurassic Reef Complex of the Marsica region (Central Apennines)

Leaders: Cristiano Ricci (Univ. Chieti-Pescara), Giovanni Rusciadelli (Univ. Chieti-Pescara), Bernard Lathuilière (Université de Lorraine).

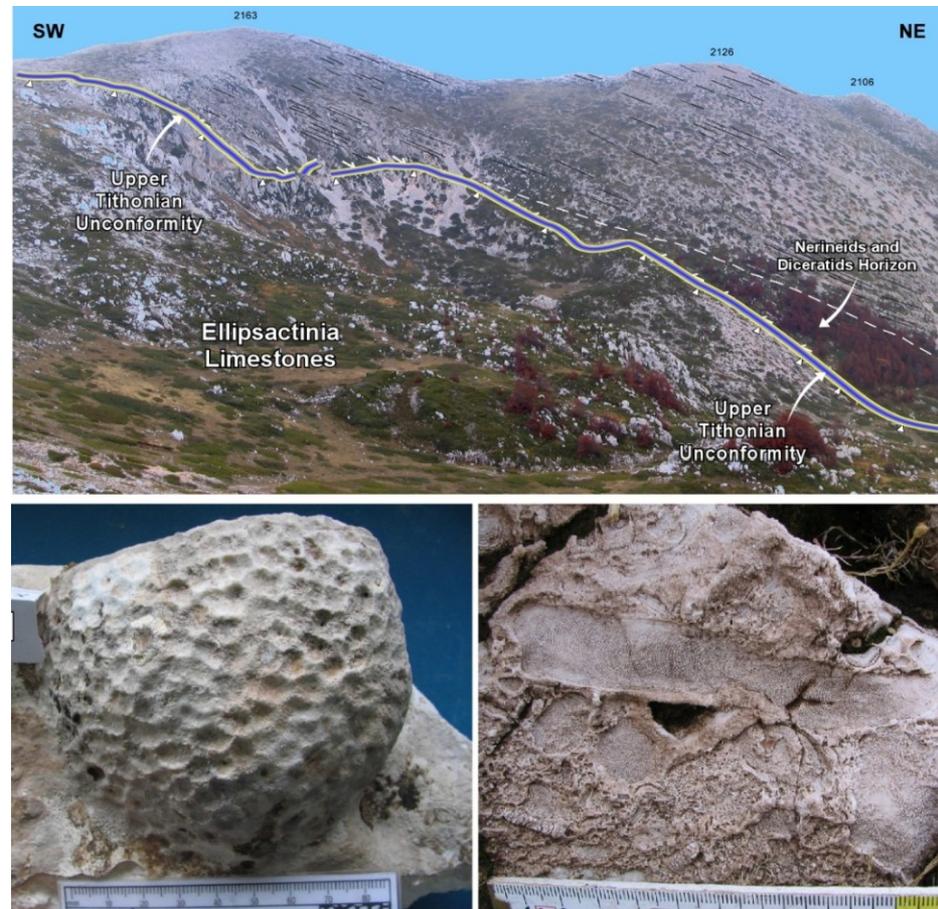
Presentation. The object of this three-day field trip is to explore the geology and palaeontology of the Upper Jurassic (Kimmeridgian–Tithonian) reef complex of the Marsica region (Central Apennines) with regards to the sedimentology of the platform margin palaeoenvironments and coral and stromatoporoid taxonomy and palaeoecology.

The shallow-water carbonates of the Central Apennines belong to the complex system of the isolated Intra-Tethys carbonate platforms that during the Late Jurassic were rimmed by wide reef areas with highly diverse biotic communities, dominated by coral and stromatoporoids, and high debris production. In the Marsica region, excellent exposures allowed the reconstruction of the original reef profile, providing a base for positioning the biotic and abiotic features along the reef complex.

Participants will have the opportunity to cross over the different reef complex zones, appreciating the changes of the facies, the main reef builders and dwellers and their palaeoecological relationships with the physical environment. An original collection of fossil corals from this area, identified up to species level, will be illustrated by panels and integrated with outcrop observations.

Preliminary programme (3 days fieldtrip)

- August 31 (Saturday): meeting point at Pescara airport; departure to Scanno (Aq), close to the area of Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park; overview of the Central Apennines geological framework;
- September 1 (Sunday): field Trip at Mt Rotondo (Aq), Serra del Carapale; exploration of the Upper Jurassic Reef Complex of the Marsica Region;
- September 2 (Monday): departure to Pescara station and travel by train or bus to Modena; arrival in Modena in the afternoon.





Post-Congress Excursions

E3. Oligocene reefs and coral assemblages of the eastern Lessini and Berici (Vicentin Southern Alps, N Italy)

Leaders: Francesca Bosellini (Univ. Modena), Alessandro Vescogni (Univ. Modena), Cesare Papazzoni (Univ. Modena), Viviana Frisone (Museum “G. Zannato” Montecchio Maggiore), Wolfgang Kiessling (Univ. Erlangen).

Presentation. The Vicentin area of Lessini and Berici is famous for the extensive collections of 19th century describing its rich coral fauna and has long been a landmark for Oligocene reef studies worldwide. The region belongs to the Lessini Shelf, a major Cenozoic paleogeographic element of the Southern Alps, and the coral outcrops are represented by the Castelgomberto Limestone (Rupelian). This unit, characterized by a peculiar cyclicity, is traditionally well known to represent one of the largest and best-exposed barrier-reef/lagoon Cenozoic reef complexes, with a barrier rim located in the southeast face of the Colli Berici (Lumignano) and a wide “lagoon” extending for about 30 km northwestward (Castelgomberto). In contrast to this model, a ramp depositional setting has been proposed and a transect across the coral facies from Castelgomberto to Lumignano will allow participants to explore these alternative reconstructions. The fieldtrip will also provide the possibility to observe the *Actinacis*-dominated coral assemblage, a peculiar feature of the lower Oligocene.

Preliminary programme (1 day field trip)

- Departure from Modena in the early morning by minivans or bus
- Facies and cycles of the Castelgomberto Limestone (Castelgomberto)
- Coral facies at Bastia Bassa (Montecchio Maggiore)
- Lunch and visit to the paleontological collection of the Museum “G. Zannato” in Montecchio Maggiore;
- Lumignano (Berici): walk up to “Eremo di San Cassiano”, where an amazing and suggestive monastery is nestled under the coral-rich Oligocene rocky wall of the southeast face of the Colli Berici.





Post-Congress Excursions

E4. The Oligocene-Miocene reef complexes of the Salento Peninsula

Leaders: Alessandro Vescogni (Univ. Modena), Francesca Bosellini (Univ. Modena), Cesare Papazzoni (Univ. Modena), Beatrice Fornaciari (Univ. Modena).

Presentation. Along the south-eastern coast of the Apulia region (south-east Italy), a spectacular superimposition of carbonate sequences is exposed, their age spanning from the late Cretaceous to the Quaternary. Among them, of particular interest are two extensive coral reef complexes, represented by the Castro Limestone Fm. (lower Chattian) and by the Novaglie Fm. (lower Messinian). The Castro Limestone is one of the best preserved Oligocene coral reef in the Mediterranean area. A sequence of five outcrops delineates a transect intercepting the main reef palaeoenvironments, from the back reef to the distal slope. The Novaglie Fm. is a classical example of Mediterranean low-diversity coral reef, that grew immediately prior to the Messinian salinity crisis. A series of outcrops along the coastal road allows to observe the transition from the reef core to the slope setting, with changes of *Porites* growth forms. In addition, other biotic structures, such as *Halimeda* bioherms and vermetid bioconstructions can be appreciated.

Preliminary programme (4 days fieldtrip)

- September 8 (Sunday): departure by bus in the afternoon from Modena to Bologna airport; flight to Brindisi (about 1,5 h); arrival at the hotel in the town of Castro Marina by minibus (about 1 h driving).
- September 9 (Monday): the Oligocene reef complex of the Castro Limestone Fm.
- September 10 (Tuesday): the Messinian reef of the Novaglie Fm. Before and after the Messinian reef: the condensed hard ground of the Aturia Level (Serravallian to Tortonian) and the "Terminal Carbonate Complex" (upper Messinian).
- September 11 (Wednesday): an overview of the Pliocene and Pleistocene Salento carbonate formations: the Porto di Novaglie outcrop. Departure from Brindisi airport in the afternoon and arrival in Bologna.

Programme and timetable can be subject to changes according to 2019 flights schedule.

