Book of Abstracts

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SISTEMA MUSEALE DI ATENEO

SIMPOSIO 2

Sfide e opportunità per la conservazione della biodiversità: il contributo degli zoologi (Dedicato a Claudia Ricci)

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THE ROLE OF INTEGRATIVE TAXONOMY IN THE CONSERVATION OF ITALIAN ENDEMIC SPECIES OF INSECTS

Biodiversity loss represents a global threat mostly related to human activities. Endemic species are among the taxa with the highest extinction risk, as they are characterized by localized ranges, and often by strong ecological niche specializations, low population size, and reduced genetic diversity. These characteristics increase their vulnerability to extinction through stochastic events and direct and indirect anthropogenic stressors (CAHILL *et al.,* 2013; SHAFFER, 1981). Thus, the conservation of endemic species must be considered a priority. Italy is the European country with the highest species richness, including more than 60,000 metazoan species, ca. 15% of which is exclusive of the Italian region (STOCH, 2000; MINELLI and STOCH, 2006). Among the Italian insects (ca. 38,000 species) about 5,000 are endemic. In the context of the Spoke 3 of the National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), we aim at studying Italian endemic species from different orders of insects (Dermaptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera) integrating morphological and molecular data. The main objectives are: (i) to produce a barcode (COI) database of as many species as possible to facilitate future identifications; (ii) to verify the presence of possible cryptic species; (iii) to investigate the phylogenetic position and biogeographic affinities of some selected species of these orders. Here we present some examples involving species of Forficulidae (Dermaptera); Gryllidae, Tettigoniidae, Acridiidae, Pamphagidae, (Orthoptera); Cebrionidae, Meloidae and Oedemeridae (Coleoptera).