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4TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS  
ON ORTHOPTERA CONSERVATION  
in memoriam Antonio Galvagni (1924 - 2015)

# PROGRAM



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*Italohippus* Fontana & La Greca, 1999 is a genus endemic to the central Apennines mainly distributed at high elevations and linked to rocky habitats and dwarf juniper formations (1500 – 2200 m-asl). The genus includes three species: *I. albicornis*, *I. modestus* and *I. monticola*. The first two are endemic to the Matese Massif and Monte Terminillo, respectively, while the latter is present in several localities along the central Apennines. Due to their restricted range and the threatened environment in which they live, *I. albicornis* and *I. monticola* are classified by the IUCN as “Endangered”. These three species were described mainly based on differences in courtship song and forewing length. Due to the lack of clearly distinctive morphological characters, the aim of this study is to combine genomic data (ddRADseq, >4000 loci) and a geometric morphometric approach to delimit the taxonomic boundaries within the genus, reconstruct the phylogenetic relationships among the three putative species, as well as their affinity with the close genus *Chorthippus*, and determine the genetic connectivity among populations, which has important implications for the conservation of such peculiar narrow-endemic taxa.

### **The brief history of orthopterology in Italy and the birth of the GRIO (Gruppo di Ricerca Insetti Ortotteroidei - Research Group for Orthopteroid Insects).**

GRIO members, WBA-World Biodiversity Association

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The GRIO (Gruppo di Ricerca Insetti Ortotteroidei - Research Group for

Orthopteroid Insects) has been active in Italy since 2003, with the aim of bringing together Italian scientists from this group to expand scientific knowledge and raise public interest in these insects. Italy is a country rich in Orthoptera. 89 species have their typical locality within its borders (Orthoptera Species Files), and the total number of species occurring in this country rises to 382 if all reported species are taken into account (WBA Handbooks: Grasshoppers & Crickets of Italy). And although Italy is historically and currently well-studied, it is not uncommon for new species to be described, such as *Oedipoda cynthiae* Fontana, Buzzetti & Massa, 2019; *Acheta pantescus* Massa, Cusimano, Fontana & Brizio, 2022. Italy is also rich in praying mantises, with 13 species (LifeWatch Italy), among which the endemic species *Pseudoyersinia lagrecai* Lombardo, 1984 stands out. Moreover, Italy is a hotspot for embiids in the Mediterranean and hosts the richest and best-known populations in the region. Recently, some new species have been discovered, such as *Embia minapalumboi* Fontana 2024 and another one that is currently being described. From a historical point of view, it is also important to mention the presence of fundamental Italian scholars in orthopterology, including Felice Capra, Marcello La Greca and Antonio Galvagni. Thanks to these influential personalities, the study of orthopteroids has continued in Italy over time. Today, the members of the GRIO, which has become a branch of the larger World Biodiversity Association (WBA), not only deal with the Orthoptera in the strict sense, but also with other orthopteroids (Blattodea, Dermaptera, Embioptera, Mantodea, Phasmatodea). Projects focusing on alien species are also underway, notably the Alien Mantids Project led by our members William Di Pietro and Roberto Battiston. Finally, we acknowledge the efforts of our member Filippo Maria Buzzetti in organizing this congress and the subsequent workshop "Recording Orthoptera Sounds: International Workshop" at the Civic Museum of Natural History in Verona.

### **The Egyptian Bird Grasshopper just landed in Pannonia. The present situation of *Anacridium aegyptium* in Hungary**

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