



ità ★ Mercantour-Alpi Marittime ★ Identità nella diversità/Identité dans la diversité ★ Mercantour-Alpi Marittime ★ Identità nella diversità/Identité dans la diversité

# pit summer school\_11

studying terrestrial invertebrates  
to investigate natural and artificial processes

from june 5th to june 12th 2011  
[parco naturale alpi marittime\\_valdieri \(cn\)](#)

How can we investigate the conservation status and evolution of ecosystems? Which are the characteristics that biological indicators should have so that they can become a suitable tool to investigate natural and artificial processes?

The PIT Summer School 2011 will try to answer these questions, giving theoretical and practical techniques to analyse the state of the environment, evaluate the ecosystem functionality, their complexity and pressures due to human activities they are directly or indirectly subjected to. Throughout an in-depth understanding of taxonomic knowledge of well-tested groups as environmental quality indicators, standardised methods for the habitat diversity estimation will be examined. Moreover, studies on natural and artificial processes, also originating from climate changes, will be developed.

Thanks to experienced lecturers known internationally, participants will experience an intense week dedicated to a critical examination of standardised collecting techniques, taxonomy, to data management and elaboration, and to the application of environmental quality indicators. The PIT Summer School provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet well known taxonomists and ecologists and experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of field work in an inspirational setting.

The PIT Summer School is organised within the framework of the Transboundary Integrated Action Plan (Transboundary Cooperation Programme Italy-France Alcotra 2007-2013) in which the Alpi Marittime natural Park and the Mercantour National Park are involved. Among the several initiatives, the two Parks are developing a "Generalised Biodiversity Inventory – Knowledge of the natural resources and Biodiversity", an ambitious project aimed at improving the knowledge on the biodiversity of the Alpi Marittime and Mercantour territory, in order to better protect and manage the species and the ecosystems.

The PIT Summer School originates from the collaboration of the Alpi Marittime natural Park and the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara, where several similar courses took place in the past years, and EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), which in 2008 organised the first EDIT Summer School coupled with the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring (ATBI+M) project set up by EDIT since 2006 the Alpi Marittime and Mercantour territory.

## Contents

- modern taxonomy: state of the art, applications and perspectives. The European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT) experience and the Mercantour/Marittime All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring (ATBI+M);
- safeguard and management of natural resources in the light of recent environmental emergencies originating from natural and artificial processes;
- biodiversity and bioindication: from international legislation to the definition of standardised protocols for the evaluation of ecosystem quality and changes;
- potential, application and limits of selected bioindicators: Lepidoptera, Diptera Syrphidae, Coleoptera Carabidae, Odonata and other arthropods (a theoretical and practical approach to sampling techniques and identification in the lab);
- management and elaboration of data collected in the field and in the lab, and their interpretation;
- introduction to the study of vegetation, with particular reference to alpine habitats: theory and fieldwork.

## Lecturers

Dr. Gianni Allegro, Agricultural Research Council (CRA); Prof. Renato Gerdol, Ferrara University; Dr. Marco Isaia, Turin University; Dr. Elisa Riservato, Odonata.It; Prof. Daniele Sommaggio, Bologna University; Dr. Simon Spencer, Butterfly Conservation.

## Registration

The PIT Summer School is open to a maximum of 20 participants:  
- 15 places are dedicated to students (also MSc and PhD students) of any nationality in biological and natural sciences disciplines;  
- 5 places are dedicated to professionals working in the field of natural sciences (monitoring, habitat conservation and protected areas management).

The deadline for sending us the application form and the curriculum vitae is May 2nd 2011 ([edit@parcoalpiarittime.it](mailto:edit@parcoalpiarittime.it)). Participants will be selected according to their curricula. The results of the selection will be communicated before May 20th 2011.

All classes and fieldwork exercises will be taught in English.

The course will last 8 days (56 hours). At the end of the course a certificate of attendance will be handed to participants.

## Info

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Marta De Biaggi  
[edit@parcoalpiarittime.it](mailto:edit@parcoalpiarittime.it); +39 0171 978809  
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Ferrara - Carla Corazza  
[c.corazza@comune.fe.it](mailto:c.corazza@comune.fe.it); +39 0532 203381  
[www.parcoalpiarittime.it](http://www.parcoalpiarittime.it)

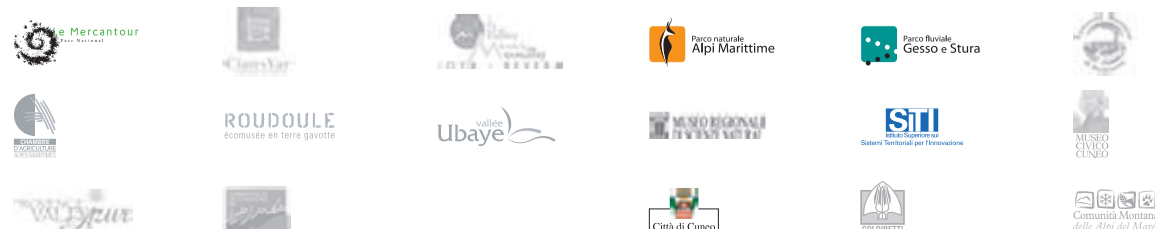
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