

International Conference Announcement:

‘Origin And Evolution Of Biota In Mediterranean Climate Zones: An Integrative Vision’

Webpage for registration and additional information
<http://www.systbot.unizh.ch/mediterranean/index.htm>

July 14-15, 2007, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Conference language: **English**

Understanding the biotic and abiotic processes that contribute to high species numbers in biodiversity 'hot spots' is one of the major tasks of biology. The exceptional biological richness of the five Mediterranean climate zones of the earth - the Mediterranean basin, South Africa, Australia, Chile and California - makes them an ideal case study to investigate the evolutionary and ecological dynamics that generate elevated species numbers. By focusing on the Mediterranean basin, the conference will synthesize the current state of knowledge on the origin of mediterranean biota, while charting a map for pushing the frontier of conceptual and methodological advances in biodiversity studies. The goal of the conference is to clarify the history of biotic assembly in mediterranean climate zones by integrating evidence across multiple disciplines, including evolutionary biology, systematics, ecology, paleontology, paleoclimatology, and paleogeology.

Plenary Speakers:

Michael Donoghue - Yale University, USA
"Phylogenetic Biogeography: Past, Present, and Future."

John Thompson - CNRS, Montpellier, France
"The dynamics of plant populations in the Mediterranean mosaic landscape: Ongoing adaptation and response to contemporary changes"

Invited Speakers:

Ackerly, David - University of California, Berkeley, USA
Case studies, Ecology: "Climate and the California flora: Past, Present and Future"

Arroyo, Juan - University of Seville, Spain
Case studies, Ecology: "Sex polymorphism in Mediterranean plants: insights from heterostyly and floral biology".

Cheddadi Rachid - Université Montpellier II, France
Methods, Paleovegetation reconstruction: "Past climate changes in the Mediterranean and potential impacts on some plant species".

Comes, Hans Peter - University of Salzburg, Austria
Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Plant evolution in the Aegean region”

Conti, Elena - University of Zurich, Switzerland
Case studies, Macroevolutionary patterns: “Dating the origin of plants endemic to the Corso-Sardinian Plate: a window on the biogeography of the Western Mediterranean Basin”

Cozzolino, Salvatore - University of Naples, Italy
Case studies, Ecology: “Pollination strategies, reproductive isolation and speciation processes in Mediterranean orchids”.

Fady, Bruno - INRA, Avignon, France
Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Biodiversity at gene level in Mediterranean conifers”

Feliner, Gonzalo Nieto - Royal Botanic Garden, Madrid, Spain
Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Species distribution modeling matches phylogeographic patterns in the Atlantic-Mediterranean disjunct *Armeria pungens*”

Kadereit Joachim - University of Mainz, Germany
Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Determinants of phylogenetic structure in Mediterranean coastal plants”

Krijgsman, Wout - University of Utrecht, Netherlands
Methods, Paleoclimate reconstruction: “The Messinian Salinity Crisis in the Mediterranean”

Lamont Byron – Curtin University, Perth, Australia
Case studies, Ecology: “Plant adaptations in Mediterranean Australia”

Linder, Peter - University of Zurich, Switzerland
Case studies, Macroevolutionary patterns: “Evolution of the Cape flora of Southern Africa, and the influence of the Mediterranean type climate”

Magallon, Susana - UNAM, Mexico
Methods, Integration of fossils in molecular dating

Medail, Frederic - University of Marseilles, France
Case studies: Macroevolutionary patterns: “Importance of historical biogeography in shaping plant diversity in the Mediterranean basin”

Medel Rodrigo - University of Chile, Santiago, Chile
Case Studies, Ecology: “Evolutionary ecology of mutualistic animal-plant relationships in Mediterranean ecosystems”.

Moore Brian - Yale University, USA

Methods, ancestral area reconstruction: “A Maximum Likelihood framework for Inferring Biogeographic History”

Oberprieler, Christoph - University of Regensburg, Germany

Case studies, Macroevolutionary patterns: “The temporal, spatial, and ecological differentiation of Compositae-Anthemidae in the Circum-Mediterranean area”

Ree, Rick - Field Museum, Chicago, USA

Methods, Ancestral area reconstruction: “Stochastic models of geographic range evolution and likelihood-based inference of ancestral ranges”

Rosenbaum, Gideon - University of Queensland, Australia?

Methods, Paleogeological reconstruction ? "Geological history of the Mediterranean basin"

Rossello, Josep - University of Valencia, Spain

Case Studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Plant evolution in a continental archipelago: The Balearic islands”

Sanmartin, Isabel - Uppsala University, Sweden

Methods, Ancestral area reconstruction: “Inferring reticulate biogeographic history using event-based methods: the Mediterranean case”.

Stuessy, Tod - University of Vienna, Austria

Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Microevolutionary patterns in *Hypochaeris* of the Western Mediterranean”

Vargas, Pablo - Royal Botanic Garden, Madrid, Spain

Case studies, Macroevolutionary patterns: “Reconstructing micro and macroevolution in snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* and relatives)”

Verdu, Miguel - University of Valencia, Spain

Case Studies, Ecology: "Evolution of plant traits under Mediterranean fire-prone environments".

Wilson, Tony - University of Zurich, Switzerland

Case studies, Microevolutionary patterns: “Environmentally-mediated reproductive variation in a nearshore European Pipefish species”

Target audience: The conference is aimed at scholars from various biodiversity disciplines at different stages of their careers, from beginning Ph.D. students to established scholars.

- **POSTER SESSION:** There will be an open poster session on both conference days (July 14-15, 2007). **Deadline for abstract submission: May 30, 2007**

- **Maximum number of conference participants: 130** (excluding the invited speakers)

- **How to register:** Registration deadline: **May 15, 2007**. See conference website
<http://www.systbot.unizh.ch/mediterranean/index.htm>

- **Registration fees:** 110 CHF for researchers, professors, and established scholars;
60 CHF for students. The fees include the abstract book and coffee breaks.

Organizing committee: Elena Conti (Chair); Guilhem Mansion (post-doc); Gabriele Salvo (Ph.D. student); Alessia Guggisberg (Ph.D. student). Technical support: Alex Bernhard (webmaster); Corinne Burlet (administration); Niklaus Mueller (IT expert).