

General Assembly
Gdansk and Sopot, Poland, 2007

Role of secondary metabolites in driving ecosystem functionality and maintaining ecosystem biodiversity

In the last decade, there has been an increased awareness that many secondary metabolites play fundamental roles as defences against predators and competitors, by acting as infochemicals, allelopathogens and kairomones. They are therefore driving ecosystem functionality at the species, population, community and ecosystem level, by affecting cell physiology as well as interactions among organisms. The discipline that studies chemical interactions among living organisms is named Chemical Ecology, which focuses on the production and response to signaling molecules, toxins, and other organic compounds.

ROSEMEB aims at integrating research in chemical ecology at the European scale by fostering exchange between laboratories involved in the study of secondary metabolites of marine organisms. This integration should allow the participants to collaborate in projects that cannot be carried out by a single institute, and will allow for the training of young scientists in the rapidly growing discipline of chemical ecology.

WORKPLAN

- Coordination among participants is achieved through common activities such as organization of workshops, short sabbaticals, exchange of material and samples, elaboration of updated reference material, redaction of a position paper on marine chemical ecology.
- Training is an important engagement of all participants in ROSEMEB. One course has been organized in Stromstad, Sweden and another one will be held in Pozzuoli, Italy in September 2007.

MAIN RESULTS



MARBEF Advanced Course on Chemical ecology and Biossasy methods		
Tjärnö Marine Biological Laboratory Sweden, 9-14 September 2006		
Course Coordinator	Faculty	
Adrianna Ianora	Martina Svanen	Henrik Paulsen
Henrik Paulsen	Raffaella Casotti	Jack R. Powell
Angela Fontana	Phyllis Pratt	Single Power
John Taylor	Mark E. Hay	Christina Ravn
Scientific Board	Raffaella Casotti	Adrianna Ianora
Sara Harner	Adrianna Ianora	Giuseppe Sgarbi
Raffaella Casotti	Adrianna Ianora	Giuseppe Sgarbi
Adrianna Ianora	Adrianna Ianora	Giuseppe Sgarbi
Giuseppe Sgarbi	Adrianna Ianora	Giuseppe Sgarbi
Angela Fontana	Adrianna Ianora	Giuseppe Sgarbi



The overall aim of the course was to teach some of the basic principles and protocols to monitor the responses of marine organisms to secondary metabolites. A total of 18 students (12 women and 6 men) from Sweden, Italy, Germany, UK, Spain, Ireland, Philippines and Mexico attended the course. The teaching staff consisted of 15 researchers from MarBEF and 8 invited lecturers from the UK, Sweden and the USA. All the presentations and teaching material are available at <http://marbef.org/projects/rosemeb/tjarno>


Participants to the first ROSEMEB workshop, held in Ischia, Italy 3-4 November 2005. Presentations offered by the participants and a report of the workshop are available at <http://marbef.org/projects/rosemeb/results.php>

More detail, updates and further information is available at <http://www.marbef.org/projects/rosemeb/index.php>

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Training course in Chemical Isolation Methods (Pozzuoli, September 2007- 2008)
- Workshop on marine benthos chemical ecology (Ischia, Italy, spring 2008)
- Workshop on marine plankton chemical ecology (Klaipeda, Lithuania, summer 2008)
- Closing meeting during MARBEF GA (Valencia, November 11-15, 2008)

PARTECIPANTS

 Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn di Napoli, Italy	 Max-Plank-Institut Für Marine Mikrobiologie, Germany	 CNR-IGB Istituto di Chimica Biomolecolare di Pozzuoli, Italy	 University of Göteborg, Sweden	 Alfred Wegener Institute of Bremerhaven, Germany	 Kalmar University Sweden
 Klaipeda University Coastal Research and Planning Institute, Lithuania	 Station Biologique de Roscoff, France	 CNRS_LOV Laboratoire de Océanographie de Villefranche, France	 Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental Portugal	 ISMAR CNR Istituto di Biologia Marina Venice, Italy	 INETI Instituto Nacional de Engenharia, Tecnologia e Inovação, I.P.

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