

PROFESSOR VALERIO SBORDONI: A SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

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Nationality: ITALIAN

Born: 11 January 1942

Position held:

Full Professor of Zoology, Tor Vergata University, Roma, Italy (1982 - to 2012, retired since November 2012). Full Professor of Zoology, Sapienza University, Roma, Italy (1980-1982). Assistant Professor Zoology and Zoogeography, Sapienza University, Roma, Italy (1971-1980).

Honors:

Awarded the G.B.Grassi prize by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (1976);

Gold medal for Physical and Natural Sciences by the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze (1995);

Rolex Award for Enterprise for exploring "the bottom side of biodiversity" (1998);

Academic member of the Italian National Academy of Entomology (since 1986);

Academic member of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze, "detta dei 40" (2009);

Appointed Vice-President and delegate to Cultural issues, at the Tor Vergata University of Roma (Italy) (1999-2005).

Main activities and responsibilities:

Elected member of the Scientific Research Commission, Tor Vergata University (1984-2003 and 2005). Past or present member of Councils of various societies, including the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB), the International Society of Subterranean Biology (SIBIOS), the Italian Society of Biogeography (SIB, President), the Italian Union of Zoologists (UZI), and the former Society for Molecular Systematics (vice-president); Steering committee of the European Science Foundation network on Population Ecology and Genetics; advisory board of research institutions including the Laboratoire Souterrain du CNRS. Chairperson, section Natural Populations, FAO World Expert on Aquatic Genetic Resources.

Present or past member of editorial boards of various international journals including the Journal of Evolutionary Biology; Genetics, Selection, Evolution; Crustaceana; Biogeographia; International Journal of Speleology (Editor in chief), The Italian Journal of Zoology, Fragmenta Entomologica, etc.

Research:

Present scientific interest is focused on several aspects of Biodiversity, including the genetic structure of populations analysed at different geographic scales and by different molecular tools. Molecular markers and other character sets are used to study phylogenies, phylogeographies and to improve empirical estimation of evolutionary parameters such as selective values, gene flow, and rates of cladogenetic events. Study organisms include butterflies, cave crickets, fish and shell-fish of economic interest and Antarctic invertebrates.

Presently VS is strongly committed in DNA barcode studies of butterflies, including the *BARSHIBU* project (DNA Barcoding, Molecular Systematics and Evolution of *Himalayan Butterflies*).

Since the seventies V. Sbordoni has directed as Principal Investigator many scientific programmes on Evolutionary and Population genetics, Biogeography, Biodiversity supported by the National Research Council (CNR), the Ministry for Education and Research, and others.

V.Sbordoni has published around 250 full papers in a wide array of journals including: *PNAS*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Evolution*, *Systematic Biology*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *Journal of Molecular Evolution*, *Nucleic Acid Research*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Heredity*, *Current Genetics*, *Journal of Heredity*, *Marine Biology*, *Aquaculture*, *Ecological Entomology*, *Zootaxa*, etc.

He has co-authored books on butterflies and general zoology, and edited 3 books on evolution in caves, contact zones and on theories and methods in systematics.

He has led several zoological and speleological expeditions to the Near East, Mexico, South East Asia, Himalaya, Tibet, resulting in the discovery of more than 200 new taxa in various groups.

V.Sbordoni is strongly committed with Biodiversity and Conservation. He has been among the Scientific Authority Members in the CITES Commission of the Italian Ministry of Environment (2000-2007); since the 2001, year of its foundation, VS is the co-ordinator and scientific manager of the Observatory for Biodiversity of the Lazio Italian Region. He is member of the Italian coordination Committee of LifeWatch, the e-science European research infrastructure on biodiversity. In 2012 he has been appointed President of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Biodiversity Network, Ministry of Environment.

Conferences planning and organization:

V.Sbordoni organised several International Conferences including the following:

2nd Conference of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (Rome, 1989);

Workshop on "Genetics and Ecology of Metapopulations", co-organized with J.Harper and P.Jacquard on behalf of the European Science Foundation, (Gregynog Residential Centre, Wales, 1992);

Symposium on "Molecular Systematics", co-organized with L.Bachmann and R. Post, on behalf of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology and the International Society for Biochemical Systematics, (Evolution93, Montpellier, 1993);

Convenor of the Section Genetics and Evolution at the 20th International Congress of Entomology (Florence, 1996);

Symposium on "Geographical patterns of intraspecific molecular variation", co-organized with R. Post, on behalf of the International Society for Biochemical Systematics at the Sixth Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, (Arnhem, The Netherlands, 1997);

Symposium on "Genetics and Ecology of Fragmented Populations", INTECOL, International Congress of Ecology, (Florence, 1998).

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Conference on Biodiversity and Landscape (Rome, May 2001);

the 34th Congress of the Società Italiana di Biogeografia (SIB): "Marine Biogeography of the Mediterranean" (Ischia, 2002);

the 66th Congress of the Unione Zoologica Italiana – UZI (Rome, 2005);

the 5th International Conference on Biology of Butterflies (Rome, 2007);

the 38th Congress of the Società Italiana di Biogeografia (SIB): "Spatial and temporal changes in biodiversity: assessments and reports of Italian biogeographers".

Among many other national conferences V. Sbordoni organized with Cecilia Saccone the first Italian Conference on the DNA barcode, on July 2008, addressed to initiate the Italian DNA Barcode group.

