



Michele Menegon

Michele Menegon is a researcher at the MUSE-Science Museum of Trento (IT). He obtained a PhD degree from the Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). For over 15 years he has been working in the forests of the Eastern Afromontane, where he conducted dozens of missions of biological exploration that led to the discovery of more than 60 species of vertebrates new to science and contributed to the definition of the biological value of many forests hitherto unknown. In Tanzania, from 2004 to 2007, he directed a Community Based Conservation Programme, aimed

at the improvement of the knowledge and conservation of the forest in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania. His research is characterized by the integration of a broad range of techniques - fieldwork, taxonomy, molecular and morphological systematics, traditional descriptive and modern biogeographic approaches - used to interpret patterns of diversity in tropical rainforests and define conservation priorities. His research has resulted in more than 70 scientific publications. He is member of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN and associated editor of *Amphibia-Reptilia*.



Massimo Delledonne

Massimo Delledonne is the Director of the Centre of Functional Genomics of the University of Verona (IT), dedicated to the development and use of the tools that the new genomic technologies are offering to microbial, plant, animal and human biologists. He obtained a PhD degree in Molecular Biotechnologies in 1994 at the Università Cattolica S.C. in Piacenza (IT), where he was then appointed as Assistant Professor in plant genetics. In 2001 he joined the University of Verona as Associate Professor in plant genetics, and since 2011 as Full Professor of genetics. Massimo Delledonne manages a

vigorous research program that emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches for functional genomics studies. His main focus is on the whole genome sequencing and annotation of prokaryotes and eukaryotes in order to characterize those parts of the genome that are not shared among all genotypes of a species (the so-called dispensable genome) and that can contribute to the establishment of phenotype differences. De-novo assembly of complex genomes is currently performed with Illumina paired ends and mate pairs, and his lab is now using optical maps for pseudomolecules reconstruction and scaffold anchoring. Comparison of the different technologies available and testing of new emerging technologies for DNA sequencing and analysis is another integral part of his mission. For example, he is deeply involved in the MinION Access Program to bring nanopore sequencing to maturity. With an h-index of 39 and more than 11,000 citations in Google Scholar, Massimo Delledonne is among the Top Italian Scientists (VIA Academy).



Massimo Bernardi

Massimo Bernardi is the curator of the Paleontology Department at the MUSE - Museum of Science of Trento (IT) and a science communicator. He obtained a MSc from the University of Bristol (UK) and is now completing his PhD in the same institution. He worked as an assistant in the laboratory of animal evolution of Prof. A. Minelli (University of Padova, Italy). Employed by MUSE since 2008, he was reader at the University of Padova in 2010-2011, and he is currently a collaborator of the same institution and of a number of research- and dissemination-

oriented authorities and corporations, such as the Museum of Natural Sciences of South Tyrol, the Geopark Bletterbach and Adamello-Brenta, the Dolomiti UNESCO Foundation, University of Padua and Turin. He is curator of the permanent exhibitions of three museums in Italy and is author of traveling exhibitions. His research activities focus on evolution of animal morphologies through time and he is especially interested in the effect of extinction events in the evolution of body shape and function. He is also interested in more theoretical aspects of biology, such as species debate, taxonomy and conservation in biology/paleontology. To date, his research resulted in more than 40 scientific publications. He is member of the Advisory Board of the Journal Natural History Sciences and Corresponding Member for the Journal Permophiles.



Ana Rodriguez-Prieto

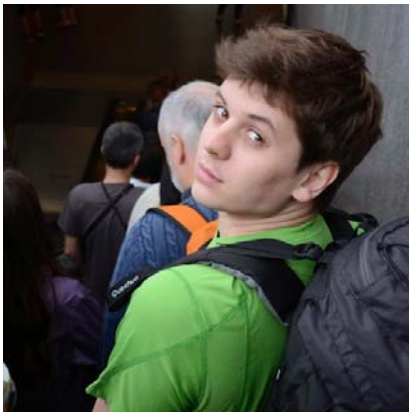
Ana Rodriguez-Prieto graduated in Biology and Biochemistry in 2009. She later completed her education with a Master of Science in Biodiversity and Biology Conservation. Her Master thesis was a research project about plant-animal interaction and the genetic structure of different populations of *Pyrus bourgeana* at Doñana National Park (Spain). In 2013, she completed a PhD at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology of Barcelona (IBE, CSIC-UPF) with a project on the speciation

process of two Iberian voles (*Microtus duodecimcostatus* and *M. lusitanicus*), applying morphometric and phylogenetic techniques. She is currently a researcher in the Department of Tropical Biodiversity at MUSE - Science Museum of Trento (IT), involved in developing a project on the morphological and phylogenetic analyses of various species of Amphibians and Reptiles from East Africa. Her main interest is the study of speciation processes in different groups of organisms, using different genetic, morphometric and phylogenetic reconstruction techniques.



Chiara Cantaloni

Chiara Cantaloni graduated in Industrial Biotechnology and worked at the Department of Environmental Engineering of the University of Trento (IT) in the development of protocols for the detection of pathogens in water. From 2008 to 2013 she managed the “Trentino Biobank,” a biological bank at the Hospital of Trento. She achieved a second degree in Biology and Health. Thus, she has been working to develop protocols for the determination of biological markers in lung and prostate cancer by sequencing techniques. Nowadays, she works at Personal Genomics, a spin-off of the University of Verona.



Cesare Centomo

Cesare Centomo is a student of the PhD Program in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics at the Centre for Functional Genomics of the University of Verona, led by prof. Massimo Delledonne. He holds a degree in Bioinformatics and Medical Biotechnology, completed with a research on the identification of genetic variants in the process of resequencing of the human genome.



Simon P. Loader

Simon P. Loader is an evolutionary biologist and fascinated by biodiversity and the processes that govern its distribution. His research focuses on questions such as: Why are some areas biologically richer than others? Why have certain lineages been successful and others less so? These questions necessarily require a comparative phylogenetic perspective

contrasting the diversity of closely related taxa in different areas and different taxa in the same areas. His practical research has been focused on the continent of Africa where he has invested substantial effort in fieldwork to support research and in training students from home and abroad.



Nicholas Barbieri

Nicholas Barbieri graduated in Biological Sciences at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (IT) in 2010 with a project on the immune system of *Drosophila melanogaster*. In 2012 he completed a Master of Science in Ecology and Evolution at the University of Ferrara (IT), developing a study about death by boat impact on sea turtle *Caretta caretta* in the Adriatic Sea. After working for a year in fisheries monitoring by-catch captures of sea turtles and other protected marine species - mostly cetaceans and chondrichthyes in Northern Adriatic Sea - he took a

second Master degree in Scientific Journalism and Institutional Communication of Science at the University of Ferrara, completing his studies with an internship at MUSE – Museum of Science of Trento (IT). He is now collaborating with the Department of Tropical Biodiversity at MUSE, where he is organizing the herpetological collection and working on its digitalization, developing a 3D pictures database for all the specimens.



Elena Garollo

Elena Garollo first graduated in Biology at the University of Padova (IT) in 2006 with a research on small mammals by in-vivo trapping, and then in Evolutionary Biology at the same university in 2008, with a study about developmental biology in millipedes. After an exciting volunteer experience at SANCCOB – Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of

Coastal Birds – where she was involved in taking care of penguins and other sea birds, she decided to take a Master of Science in Biodiversity and Conservation at Leeds University (UK). Her master thesis was a research project on host-parasite interaction in honey bees. She has worked at the MUSE – Museum of Science of Trento (IT) as a museum educator for 3 years, during which she delivered guided tours through permanent and temporary exhibitions and laboratorial activities in the biotechnology sector. Recently she has become a collaborator of the Department of Tropical Biodiversity at MUSE and a programme officer of the SSC Amphibian Red List Authority of the IUCN.



Sabina Barcucci

Sabina Cuccibar is a design architect. She is working at the MUSE - Science Museum of Trento (IT), as fablab manager. She has an education and professional background as an architect and consultant from which she got skilled in project management. Thanks to the experience at the MUSE FabLab started two years ago, she has also developed passion and competencies in education and education management. She manages three fablab interns and six museum educators, who are in charge of FabLab workshops delivery. She teaches digital fabrication as well, mainly to test new workshops before training the FabLab staff. At the

MUSE FabLab she learnt how to deal with institutions, involving schools and school teachers. She has a specific passion for community creation and management, online and offline networking as well as open innovation practices.