



XX European Congress
of Herpetology
Milan, 2-6 September 2019

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS



UNIVERSITÀ
DI PAVIA



Organising Institutions:

Societas Europaea Herpetologica (www.sch-herpetology.org)

Università degli Studi di Milano (www.unimi.it)

Università degli Studi di Pavia (www.unipv.it)

Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano (<https://www.comune.milano.it/museostorianaturale/>)

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (www.unimib.it)

Local Organising Committee:

Gentile Francesco Ficetola, Roberto Sacchi, Stefano Scali, Raoul Manenti, Edoardo Razzetti, Emilio Padoa-Schioppa, Chiara Trabella, Marco Mangiacotti, Andrea Melotto, Mattia Falaschi, Alan Coladonato

Scientific Committee:

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Welcome to Milan!

We are glad to host the XX European Congress of Herpetology, which has been co-organized by the University of Milan, the University of Pavia, the Natural History Museum of Milan and the University of Milano-Bicocca. Participants from 40 countries across the world registered for the event, and we hope that our congress will be a great moment of scientific discussions and social exchanges. We will have about 200 talks and more than 100 posters covering a very wide range of topics, from systematics to conservation issues, from methodological tools to ecology and ethology. We also have a rich program of social events that will certainly facilitate the exchanges and the discussions.

Milan is also a beautiful city with a great nightlife, and can be an excellent starting point for visiting the rich biodiversity of Italy. We really hope you will enjoy the congress and your stay in Milan!

The Organizing Committee

Our logo

The “Biscione” (big snake) in the act of consuming a child is the heraldic emblem of Milan since the Middle Ages. According to the legend Bonifacio, lord of Pavia, was married with Bianca, daughter of the Duke of Milano. While Bonifacio fights against the Saracens, his son is kidnapped and devoured by a giant snake. When coming back from the war, Bonifacio searches the snake, kills him, and finds his son still alive!

In our logo, the Biscione is eating a herpetologist, instead of the Bonifacio’s son...



General Information

E-mail: seh-congress@unipv.it

Website: <http://seh-congress-2019.unipv.it/>

Venue - Scientific activities:

University of Milan, Via Celeste Clericetti 2-16, Milan. See Pag. 332-333 for maps.

Opening hours

2 September, Monday 9:00–18.00

3 September, Tuesday 8:30–18.30

4 September, Wednesday 8:30–18.30

5 September, Thursday 8:30–18.30

6 September, Friday 8:30–17.00

Internet access

Free Wi-Fi is available in the University halls.

Coffee

Coffee, tea, soft drinks, mineral water and small cakes will be served during the coffee breaks in the area adjacent to the Aula.

Please note that it is prohibited to consume meals or drinks in the Aula.

Lunches

Please note that lunches are not included in the registration fee. However, lunches can be bought in the canteen at the 2nd floor of the building (the price for a full meal is 6,27 EUR).

Social Events

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Party

Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano, Corso Venezia 55, Milano

Date: 2 September (Monday)

Time: 18:30 hrs

Admission is free for congress participants and for their registered accompanying persons.

The museum can be easily reached from the congress venue via underground (Line 1; stop: Palestro). See Pag. 333 for the map. To go to the welcome party, we will move from the congress venue around 18.00.

Meeting point: Entrance of the Aula

Congress photo

A picture of participants will be taken and later uploaded to the congress website.

Place: stairs of the congress building

Time: 4 September, 14:30

Gala dinner

Date: 5 September, between 19:00 and 23:00

Location: Palazzo Cusani – Salone Umberto I

The location of the gala dinner can be easily reached via underground (Line 2, Lanza). To go to the gala dinner, we will move from the congress venue around 18.30. *Meeting point:* Entrance of the Aula

Admission: Only with ticket, tickets are available in limited number at the registration desk

Price: 50 EUR

Field Excursions

1. Visit to the subterranean laboratory for the study of *Speleomantes salamanders* [Stazione Biospeleologica di Besolagno (Savignone, GE)]

Date: 7 September (Saturday)

Services provided: Transportation by bus, English speaking guide, lunch

Meeting point: University of Milan (Via Celoria)

Departure time: 9:00

Arrival to Lambrate metro and railway station (Milan): 17:00

Costs: 45 €

2. Field trip in the Ticino Regional Park – La Fagiana (Magenta – Milano), to look for reptiles and amphibians

Date: 7 September (Saturday)

Services provided: Transportation by bus, English speaking guide, lunch

Meeting point: University of Milan (Via Celoria)

Departure time: 9:00

Arrival to Lambrate metro and railway station (Milan): 17:30

Costs: 55 €

3. Field trip for Amphibians and Reptiles of Orobie Prealps [Passo San Marco, Mezzoldo (BG)]

Date: 7 September (Saturday)

Services provided: Transportation by bus, English speaking guide, lunch

Meeting point: University of Milan (Via Celoria)

Departure time: 8:15

Arrival to Lambrate metro and railway station (Milan): 17:30

Costs: 50 €

More informations about the field trips are available on our website, <http://seh-congress-2019.unipv.it/field-trip/>

Presentation Guidelines

Poster display

Posters will be on display during the whole Congress. Authors are responsible for setting up their poster at the beginning of the congress and removing it after the end of the congress.

Venue: Numbered poster boards are in the Congress building, ground floor and gallery

Poster size: The maximum size allowed for each poster is 70 cm wide and 100 cm high.

Poster position: Vertical. Posters that do not adhere to the dimensional limits cannot be displayed.

Set-up: 2 September 11:00–18:00

No poster should be set up during the Opening Ceremony!

Poster removal: 6 September 14:00–17:00

No poster should be removed during the Closing Ceremony!

Poster session 4 September 14:45–18:00

Drinks and snacks will be served nearby the Aula.

Oral presentations

The length of the oral presentations will be 12 minutes with 3 minutes discussion, 15 minutes altogether. Please contact the technical staff if you have additional requests.

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**REVISION OF THE TAXONOMY AND PHYLOGENETIC HISTORY OF
PALEARCTIC WATER FROGS (*Pelophylax*)**

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Water frogs of the genus *Pelophylax* represent one of the most complex groups of Palearctic amphibians, the taxonomy of which has been historically challenged by a highly conserved phenotype while molecular biogeography and phylogenetics are hampered by the fragmentary and generally non-complementary data.

Aiming to get new insight into *Pelophylax* evolutionary drama and establish a comprehensive phylogenetic framework, we generated several dozen novel mitochondrial assemblies in ensemble with multi-locus ddRAD dataset from numerous populations across the Palearctic. Our approach allowed to systematise existing, yet often non-orthologous mitochondrial data, as well as address nuclear genetic relationships within the group, bringing on the stage a number of so far overlooked water frog lineages. In particular, we compared several known phylogenetic scenarios by employing other Ranidae mitogenomes and fossil calibrations, assessed patterns of admixture in several contact zones, and investigated paraphyly in some well-established taxa. As a result, we propose new phylogenetic and taxonomic hypotheses of the *Pelophylax* to the SEH venue, which might also entail implications for amphibian conservation in Europe.



SOCIETAS EUROPAEA HERPETOLOGICA (SEH)

Structure of the Society (August 2019)

Council

President: Mathieu Denoël (University of Liège – FNRS, Belgium)

Vice-President: Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou (CIBIO, Portugal)

General Secretary: Dan Cogalniceanu (University Ovidius Constanta, Romania)

Vice-Secretary: Francesco Ficetola (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy)

Treasurer: Tom Kirschey (NABU, Germany)

Vice-Treasurer: Petros Lymberakis (University of Crete, Greece)

First Co-Editor: Sebastian Steinfartz (Universität Leipzig, Germany)

Second Co-Editor: Judit Vörös (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Hungary)

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Mapping Committee: Nefta Sillero

Taxonomic Committee: Jeroen Speybroeck & Melita Vamberger

Webmaster

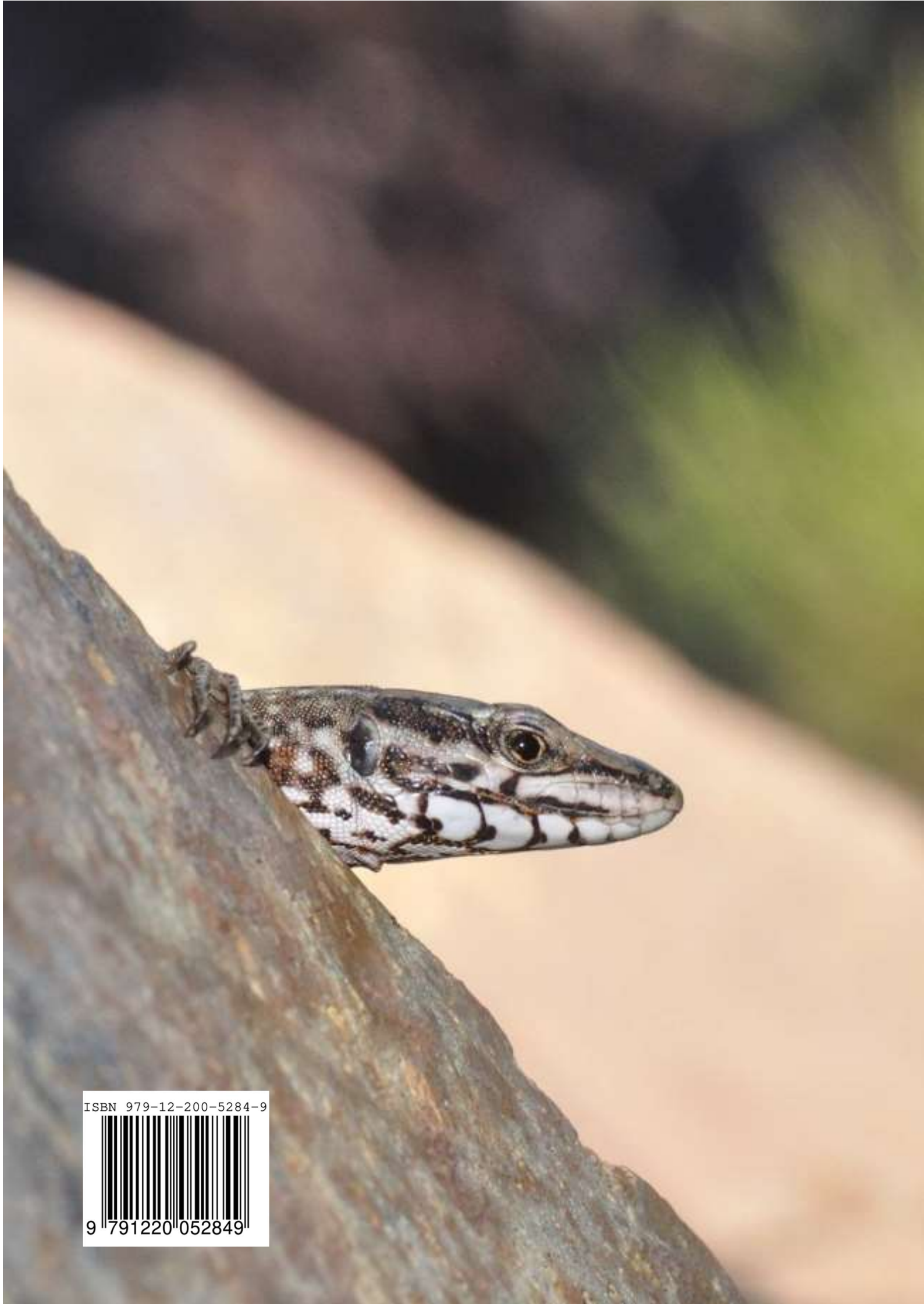
Edoardo Razzetti

Herpetology Notes

Hinrich Kaiser (Editor-in-Chief), Anamarija Zagar & Hendrik Müller (Managing Editors), Bina Perl (Layout Editor)

Board of Associate Editors for Amphibia-Reptilia and Section of Editors for Herpetology Notes

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