

Preface

The Malacological Pontine Meeting, San Felice Circeo, Italy

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As part of the knowledge of the biodiversity of the pontine area and in particular of the Circeo National Park, in 2007 the writer, then director of the “Museo Civico del Mare e della Costa Marcello Zei” of Sabaudia, thought appropriate to include as one of the institutional activities of the museum the deepening of research at malacological level, hitherto restricted only to a few scientific papers related to molluscs of Mount Circeo (Lepri, 1909), of the area of Terracina (Sacchi & Girod, 1968), with some footnotes to broader works on the biodiversity of coastal lakes of Latium, as in the case of the Paola (or Sabaudia) Lake (Brunelli & Cannicci, 1934) in which is also described a new species (*Rissoa sabaudiae* Coen, 1934 never reported again) or parts of research related to marine areas overlooking the coast and the Pontine islands (Gravina et al., 1992) (Figs. 1, 2).

Equally sporadic are the reports on fossil molluscs: regarding Mount Circeo, *Strombus bubonius* Lamarck, 1822 and *Tritonidea viverrata* Kiener, 1757 were reported by Blanc (1940) in the Guttari Cave and Durante & Settepassi (1974) have reported some species found in the “Grotta delle Capre”. The malacofauna of the fossil dunes of the islands of Ponza and Ventotene (Pontine Archipelago) was finally studied by Sacchi (1952).

With these premises in May 2007 was therefore organized the “Prima Giornata di Studi Malacologici Pontini” in which, among other things Danilo Vani

presented the first report of *Gibbula nebulosa* (Philippi, 1841) in the Pontine coast. In subsequent years, given the interest of Italian malacologists for this initiative, the name of the event changed to “Convegno Malacologico Pontino” arranged in two days of study and funded by the Lazio Region through the “Museo Civico del Mare e della Costa” of Sabaudia, which remained until 2012, the place of the event, replaced in 2013 (and since October 2014) both as funding agency as seat by the Municipality of San Felice Circeo, together with the Pontine Naturalistic Malacological Association “Malakos 2002” as co-financing organization.

In the seven editions (2007-2013) of the Meeting implemented to date, numerous speakers both professionals of academic origin and amateurs have dealt with the most important topics regarding malacology from the point of view of systematics, ecology, biogeography, molecular biology, paleontology, etc..., by several reports, some of which have resulted both in scientific and popular publications.

There have been numerous reports that have dealt with topics of systematics and biogeography concerning the Pontine Area, and in particular: the first report of *Gibbula nebulosa* (Philippi, 1841) in the Pontine coast (Danilo Vani, VII Meeting) the study of land molluscs of Mount Circeo (Alessandro Hallgass & Angelo Vannozi, II Meeting) and of the islands Ventotene and Santo Stefano (Alessan-



Figure 1. Mount Circeo (photo S. Moncado).



Figure 2. Pontine Archipelago (photo S. Moncado).

dro Hallgass & Angelo Vannozi, VI Meeting), the study of molluscs of the pontine dunes (Antonio Incandela, II Meeting), preliminary (Andrea Bassi, III Meeting) and final (Bruno Fumanti, VII Meeting) reports on the marine molluscs of Zannone, the distribution of the genus *Onoba* H. & A. Adams, 1852 (Rissoidea) in pontine waters (Bruno Amati & Italo Nofroni, IV Meeting), a study of nudibranchs from “Canale Romano” of the Paola Lake (Giulia Furfaro, Armando Macali & Paolo Mariottini, V Meeting), the study of molluscs in the sands of beach nourishment on the coast of Terracina (Luigi Giannelli, VII Meeting), the study of the Mollusca from the “Secca dei Mattoni”, Pontine Archipelago (Fabio Crocetta, Giuseppe Fasulo, Italo Nofroni and Arturo Facente, IV Meeting) and the study of the Pleistocene continental molluscs in the Pontine Plain (Daniele Gianola, III Meeting).

It follows therefore that these regular meetings have contributed in some way to increase our knowledge of biodiversity, even if limited to malacofauna, of this area, which includes among other things a National Park in many ways unique in the world.

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