

# A preliminary assessment of the amphipod collections in Naturalistic Museums in Italy

Gianna Innocenti

Museo di Storia Naturale, Sezione di Zoologia “La Specola”, Università degli Studi di Firenze, via Romana 17, 50125 Firenze, Italy; email: gianna.innocenti@unifi.it

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**ABSTRACT** A first assessment on the presence of Amphipoda collections in Italian Natural History Museums is given.

**KEY WORDS** Amphipoda; Natural History Museum collections; Italy.

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## INTRODUCTION

With the exception of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Verona, where the precious and huge collection of Amphipoda studied and preserved by Sandro Ruffo is present (Ruffo & Krapp, 2005), few information are available regarding the presence of specimens belonging to this order in Italian Museums of Natural History.

For instance, a year ago, just by chance, it was possible to ascertain the presence of Clelia Cecchini's amphipod type specimens in the Museo di Storia Naturale, Università di Firenze (Lo Brutto, 2017).

Thus, a first survey on the presence of amphipods among the Arthropoda Crustacea collections has been carried out, with the aid of the Associazione Nazionale Musei Scientifici (ANMS; [www.anms.it](http://www.anms.it)) database, in order to give a preliminary evaluation to the researchers in the field.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Thirty-eight Museums, belonging to different Institutions (Municipality, University or other) were

contacted by e-mail. Museums confirming the presence of amphipods were later on contacted in order to have as much information as possible, regarding the consistence of the collection, the origin, the researchers who studied them and if type specimens were among the material. Only 13 Museums confirmed to held Amphipoda among the Crustacean collections, 3 declared that the collections were present, but their status could not be assessed, while 2 Museums never answered (Table 1).

Among the above-mentioned 13 Museums, only five (Bergamo, Ferrara, Firenze, Genova and Udine) detain conspicuous collections, that is to say, more than 100 specimens, comprising type specimens, from both freshwater and marine habitats, mostly from Italian rivers, caves, lagoons and seas. Indeed the majority of the amphipods held in the Italian Museums are from freshwater habitats (Fig. 1), with the collection in Udine Museum reaching more than 47,000 specimens (P. Glerean, pers. comm.) collected from the Friuli region.

Prof. Sandro Ruffo and Dr Fabio Stoch have identified most of them. Historical and recent new species were studied by Clelia Cecchini (Firenze), Teresita Maccagno (Genova) and Cristina Munari (Ferrara).

Museums holding Amphipoda collections	City	Type specimens present
Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali "E. Caffi"	Bergamo	
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale	Carmagnola (Torino)	
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale	Ferrara	x
Museo di Storia Naturale, Università di Firenze	Firenze	x
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G. Doria"	Genova	x
Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn	Napoli	
Museo di Storia naturale, Università di Parma	Parma	
Accademia dei Fisiocritici	Siena	
Museo delle Scienze di Trento	Trento	
Musei Civici di Storia Naturale di Trieste	Trieste	
Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale	Udine	
Sistema museale di ateneo, Università di Pavia	Pavia	NAV
Museo Regionale di Scienze naturali	Torino	NAV
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale	Venezia	NAV
Civici musei e gallerie	Reggio Emilia	NA
Museo di Storia naturale dello stretto di Messina e del Mediterraneo	Villa San Giovanni (Reggio Calabria)	NA
NAV=Not Available; NA=No Answer		

Table 1. Lists of the contacted Italian Museums holding Amphipoda, with unavailable collections or without information.

However, all the Museums are preserving many specimens, from several Italian localities, still to be studied and identified.

This preliminary assessment on the Italian Natural History Museum collections gives a first glance on the presence of this group. Italian Museums, as archives of biodiversity, are preserving a

relevant quantity of Amphipoda, mostly from Italian localities, many of them available for study to interested researchers.

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## REFERENCES

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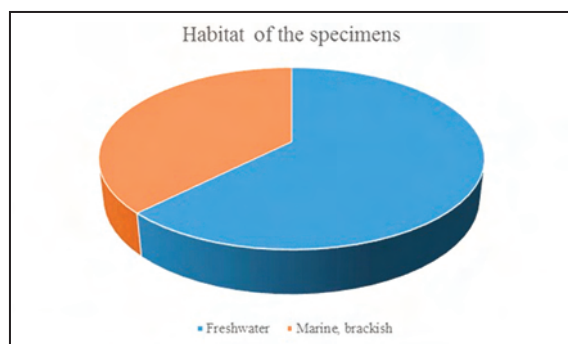


Figure 1. Data on the origin habitat of the Amphipoda collections in Italian Museums (orange: marine or brackish; blue: freshwater).