



XII Giornate di Paleontologia - 24-26 Maggio 2012

Introduction

The present issue is the first of two issues of the Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana devoted to the publication of part of the scientific contributions presented during the “Palaeodays 2012” Congress.

The annual meeting of the Society was held at the Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali of the Università di Catania, from 24th to 26th of May 2012.

The conference constituted an important event for the University of Catania that, after 22 years, had the opportunity to welcome again the Italian palaeontological community already hosted on two previous occasions, represented by “Paleobenthos” in 1985 and “Sediments and Benthos” in 1989.

The “Palaeodays” Congress, on its twelfth edition, was confirmed as the most important annual event bringing together Italian palaeontologists, including people who love fossils, researchers and their foreign collaborators. Nearly 100 delegates attended the meeting, representing almost all the Italian universities, including many students and young researchers. The conference reflected a lively renewed interest in palaeontological research and represented an opportunity for all participants to debate and exchange scientific information.

In the traditional field trip the well-known fossiliferous locality of Acquadolci with insular dwarf hippo remains, the St. Teodoro Cave, and the Gelasian-to-Tyrrhenian deposits of Capo Milazzo, including rich deep-water invertebrate assemblages, were visited. The Congress concluded with awards being presented to young researchers and students for best posters and communications.

Sixteen papers, out of the numerous contributions presented at the conference, are included in the BSPI. These papers are representative of the main topics dealt with at the congress, some constituting innovative studies and/or resulting from the exploitation of advanced techniques. Thus, the two issues will enhance the diffusion of recent achievements in palaeontology.

The venture to publish the “Palaeodays 2012” results rapidly, thus remaining within the scheduled time, has been possible thanks to the commitment of the authors, referees and the editorial staff. Authors are thanked for accepting our invitation and choosing to submit their papers to the BSPI. Reviewers are acknowledged for their support, accurate revision, criticism and suggestions, essential for enhancing all papers. The following people Eric Armynot du Châtelet, Carlo Nike Bianchi, Armando Blanco, Zlatozar Boev, Laura Bonfiglio, Rodolfo Coccioni, Serge Gofas, Katrin Heindel, Tassos Kotsakis, Frédéric Lacomat, Oliver Lambert, Antonella Cinzia Marra, Jordi Martinell, Bienvenido Martínez-Navarro, Paul Mazza, Erin Maxwell, Raef Minwer-Barakat, Umberto Nicosia, Silvio Renesto, Lorenzo Rook, Raffaele Sardella, Joachim Schönfeld, Maria V. Triantaphyllou, Donata Violanti, Sebastian Voigt, as well as eight anonymous reviewers, were involved.



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Antonietta Rosso and Rossana Sanfilippo
(Editors)

