

Emilio Balletto is a full professor of Zoology at the University of Turin.

Past engagements:

He was Head of the Department of Animal and Human Biology from 1.11.1992 to 1.2.1995 and from 14.07.1998 until 1.11.2003. President of *Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica* (1987-1998); of *AICF* (Italian Butterfly Conservation Society) (1990-1995), of *Societas Herpetologica Italica* (1996-2004) and of "Unione Zoologica Italiana" (UZI: from Sept 2005). Member of the Conservation Committee of *Societas Europaea Herpetologica*, of the experts group on Amphibians and Reptiles of the Council of Europe, of the IUCN SSG for European Herpetofauna. He was a member of the Italian CITES Scientific Authority for 6 years, was the Italian delegate at the CITES Conference of the Parties at Fort Lauderdale, at the CITES Animals Group and at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (1994-1997). For the latter convention he covered the EU Presidency during the Italian Semester (Strasbourg, 22-26.01.1996). He was a member of the International Herpetological Committee (1997-2001).

Current engagements:

EB is the President of the Federation of the Italian Environmental Societies (FISNA) from Nov. 2008.

He is a member of the Executive Committee for the World Congress of Herpetology since 2001. EB is the Italian delegate at the BCE (Butterfly Conservation Europe).

Prof. Emilio Balletto coordinates the Zoological Laboratory of the Department of Animal and Human Biology of the University of Turin (http://www.unito.it/unitoWAR/page/dipartimenti1/D001/D001_sezioni_gruppi_di_ricerca2?path=/BEA%20Repository/918022)

The Zoological Laboratory research is centred on ecology, phylogeny and biogeography of butterflies. At the present the group is collaborating with the Italian Ministry for the Environment for programmes involving the compilation of the Check-list and database of the Italian butterflies, as well as of the Red List of the Italian butterflies. Since its foundation, the group also co-operates with "Butterfly Conservation Europe" (www.bc-europe.eu) over this and other similar issues: the research team is the Italian delegate and collaborated to the publication of the Red List of European Butterflies (Balletto et al. 1999) and its subsequently review in 2010. Moreover the group joined the project Prime Butterfly Areas in Europe. The researchers have been studying the effects of habitat fragmentation and of climate change upon many threatened lepidopteran populations. The research is focused on etho-ecological aspects (dispersal, oviposition, habitat selection) of endangered species, in order to develop management and action plans for butterfly conservation, consistent with a sustainable land-use.

In particular, the group investigates the biology of the myrmecophilous butterflies, i.e. those species depending on the ants for defence, shelter of food at some stage of their life cycle, and many efforts are devoted to the study of the host-parasite relationship.

Co-operations

The Zoology Laboratory of the Department of Animal and Human Biology has been involved in many regional and national projects and also in international one, funded by European Union, and devoted to monitoring and studying butterfly population.

International Projects:

1) European Network ALPNET - Alpine Biodiversity in Europe, 2000-3.

2) MACMAN (Maculinea Butterflies of the Habitat Directive and European Red List as Indicators and Tools for Habitat Conservation and Management www.macman-project.de), 2001-2006.

3) Monitoring of *Erebia christi* in the pSIC and SPA (IT1140016) Alpe Veglia and Devero: "Activities for the conservation of the alpine grasslands and peat-bogs" (2004-2005), Action A.3 (LIFE02NATIT/8574).

4) Coordination of the programme "Faunal and ecological characterisation of the Mont Blanc NATURA-2000 sites (2005-6). Project n° 121 "ALCOTRA COGEVA VAHASA: « Coopération, gestion, valorisation des espaces protégés, Vallée d'Aoste, Haute Savoie » - INTERREG IIIA Italy-France (Alps), 2005-2006.

5) MACIS (Minimisation of and Adaptation to Climate change: Impacts on biodiversity) www.macis-project.net/ 2006-2008.

6) Swiss-Italian INTERREG (Biodiversity, a value to be preserved: Operative program of international cooperation) (2007-2013).

7) Franco-Italian INTERREG PHENOALP Phénologie alpine: effets des changements climatiques (started on 27-01-09).

8) BIODIVERSA Project CLIMIT (CLimate change impact on Insect and their MITigation) 2009-2012.

National Projects:

1) Action Plan for *Maculinea alcon* and *Coenonympha oedippus* at the Baragge di Candelo SCI, under contract with the Administration of the Regional Park and SCI "Baragge-Bessa-Brich (Cerione Biella)" (2005-2006).

2) Action Plan for *Maculinea arion* in the Gesso and Stura River Park, under contract with Cuneo municipal district (2006-8).

3) Contract with "Parco Piemontese del Ticino" to compile a check-list and distribution atlas of the butterflies and burnets (*Zygaenoidea*) occurring in the Park (2002-4; 2005-7).

4) Monitoring of *Papilio alexanor*, under contract with Valdieri municipal district (2008-9).

The research group has many cooperation with:

1) prof. Jeremy Thomas - Oxford University, Zoology Dept, UK

2) dr. Karsten Schonrogge, dr. Graham Elmes - NERC (Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) Wallingford, UK.

3) dr. Piotr Nowicki, prof. Michal Woyciechowski - UJAG (Jagellonian University, Institute of Environmental Sciences), Krakow, Poland

4) dr. Josef Settele - UFZ (Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany)

5) dr. Andras Tartally, dr. Zoltan Varga - DUFVS (Debrecen University, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Evolutionary Zoology and Human Biology) Hungary.

6) dr. Christian Stettmer, dr. Matthias Dolek - ANL (Bavarian Academy for Nature) di Laufen, Germany

7) dr. Chris van Swaay, dr. Irma Wynhoff - Dutch Butterfly Conservation, Wageningen, The Netherlands