



SISS International “Antonio Berlese” Summer School

Soil Fauna: Applied Ecology and Systematics

– First Edition –

September 1-5, 2025

CREA Experimental Farm, Scarperia e San Piero (FI), Via Fagna 1 – 50038

Gps coordinates: 43.983456 11.346821

where a long-term soil experiment is ongoing for more than 30 years and Italy's most important soil sample library is located.

The recent evolution to soil health concept poses a hot topic to the soil scientists, monitoring programme stakeholders and policy makers. How to quantify soil health, and the effects of soil threats, including climate change, without an insightful and complete assessment of soil fauna? And their resilience once the causes for soil degradation are removed? This school aims at filling these gaps, harmonizing, and updating information with scientific-technical support.

The benefits of this programme will lead to a more comprehensive improvement and thorough assessment of soil fauna status, distribution, and systematics. The ABS will co-operate with other institutions, including Universities, Museums and Environmental Protection Agencies, to widen the network of collaborations.

Potential students are PhD, master students or professional experts. The summer school is designed to obtain 3 European Academic Credit in Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS =3 Italian CFU), check it with your University before registration, providing this program. Moreover, we will contact professional registers to obtain credits.

A roster of experts will collaborate existing international networks to design a comprehensive and engaging curriculum, deepening the complex and diverse challenges of soil quality, health, and resilience, both on spatial and temporal scales. The school covers the basics of soil fauna natural history and distribution, their taxonomy, ecological interactions, and conservation. It also will incorporate practical direct experiences, sampling, extraction, identification, monitoring, and research projects to provide students with real-world application of their learning.



PROGRAMME

- 5 days from 9 AM to 19 PM
- Front lessons: 17 hours
- **Practical Activities: 14 hours**
- Guided Study: 17 hours
- Final exam to obtain 3 CFU

Monday: Overview

Soil taxonomy, Soil ecology, Experimental design,
Habitat, sampling and extraction methodologies in soil arthropod research
Welcome party

Tuesday: Microfauna

focus on *Protozoa, Nematoda, Rotifera* and *Tardigrada*,
Microfauna habitat, sampling, extraction and identification methodologies

Wednesday: Mesofauna

focus on Microarthropods, QBS-ar methods, *Anellida Enchytraeidae*,
Mesofauna habitat and practical QBS calculation test

Thursday: Macrofauna and Megafauna

focus on *Insecta, Arachnida, Myriapoda, Anellida Lumbricidae, Vertebrata*,
Macrofauna habitat and extraction field trip

Friday: Identification practice

Practical Nematode and Earthworm laboratory identification test,
practical microarthropods biological forms laboratory identification test
final exam

Prestigious international scientific committee: to be completed

Preregistration before June 16th (June 15th 11:59 PM) application form at
<https://forms.office.com/e/eDvTeL8CKh>



PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 24 ATTENDEES

(Minimum for start the school: 12 attendees)

Welcome coffee, lunch and coffee break are included

12 free tent places, or accommodation costs at your charge. Transfers from the school site can be facilitated for students residing within a 5 km radius including San Piero a Sieve train station.

Suggested hotel in Scarperia and San Piero a Sieve:



Appartamento Giglio
rosso, via Alcide De
Gasperi 18, Scarperia

Mugello vacanze,
via Senni Figliano
11e, Scarperia

Hotel Ebe, via Le
Mozzete 1a, San
Piero a Sieve

Locanda San
Barnaba, Viale
J.F. Kennedy
15/17, Scarperia

Payment within 15 days of acceptance by email,

Early registration: before April 16th (15th 11:59 PM)

Students: 340 €

Professionals: 450 €

Late registration : before June 16th (15th 11:59 PM)

Students: 450 €

Professionals: 550 €

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lorenzo D'Avino (Secretary), Carlo Jacomini (Proposer), Giuseppe Corti (Chair),
Filiberto Altobelli, Claudia Becagli, Gaia Bigiotti, Miguel Angel Gambelli, Fabio Gatti,
Federico Gavinelli, Maria Grazia Piazza, Malayka Samantha Picchi, Elena Tondini

CONTACTS

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