



SISS International “Antonio Berlese” Summer School

Soil Fauna: Applied Ecology and Systematics

– First Edition –

September 1st-5th, 2025

CREA Experimental Farm, Scarperia e San Piero (FI), Via Fagna 1 – 50038
Gps coordinates: 43.983798, 11.347401

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.



Prestigious international scientific committee:

Alberto Masoni, Alessandro Campanaro, Alessandro Minelli, Alice Lenzi, Andrea Benocci, Anna Loy, Augusto Zanella, Barbara R.I. Manachini, Carlo Jacomini, Celine Pelosi, Cristina Menta, Diego Fontaneto, Elena Tondini, Fabio Gatti, Federico Gavinelli, Gaia Bigiotti, George Brown, Giovanni L'Abate, Giuseppe Corti, Letizia Modeo, Lorenzo D'Avino, Loris Galli, Luca Bartolozzi, Malayka Samantha Picchi, Maria Viketoft, Martina Coletta, Miguel Angel Gambelli, Paolo Nannipieri, Roberto Barbetti, Sara Remelli, Sauro Simoni, Silvia Landi, Stefan Geisen, Stefano Mocali, Tancredi Caruso, Zoë Lindo.

Preregistration before ~~June 16th~~ June 23rd (11:59 PM)

application form at <https://forms.office.com/e/eDvTeL8CKh>



PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 24 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, <i>via Alcide De Gasperi</i> 18, Scarperia	Mugello vacanze, <i>via</i> <i>Senni Figliano 11e,</i> Scarperia	Hotel Ebe, <i>via Le</i> <i>Mozzete 1a, San</i> <i>Piero a Sieve</i>	Locanda San Barnaba, <i>Viale J.F. Kennedy 15/17,</i> Scarperia
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Suggested accommodation: Camping Village Mugello Verde *Via Massorondinaio, 39, 50038 Scarperia e San Piero FI*

Payment within 7 days of acceptance by email.

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

Students: 340 € Professionals: 450 €

Late registration : before ~~June 16th~~ June 23rd (11:59 PM)

Students: 450 € Professionals: 550 €

Once payment has been made, no refunds will be given. We recommend taking out travel insurance.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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



CONTACTS

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only if necessary, lorenzo.davino@crea.gov.it, carlo.jacomini@isprambiente.it

Agronomists and foresters who attend the event will receive credits in accordance with national regulations.

The event is sponsored free of charge by the Order of Agronomists and Foresters of the Province of Florence.



ORDINE
DEI DOTTORI AGRONOMI
E DEI DOTTORI FORESTALI
DELLA PROVINCIA DI FIRENZE



Ministero della Giustizia

PROGRAMME

Day	Scheduled time	Time (minutes)	Topic	Theory or practice	Speaker	Affiliation
Monday morning September 1 st , 2025	9.00-9.15	15	Raising pedofauna awareness in pedology	T	Giuseppe Corti	CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	9.15-10.00	45	Antonio Berlese, a scientist	T	Sauro Simoni	CREA Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification
	10.00-11.00	60	Soil classification	T	Roberto Barbetti	CREA Research Centre for Forestry and Wood
	11.00-11.15	15	Coffee break			
	11.15-11.45	30	Soil ecology and Soil Food Web	T	Tancredi Caruso	School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin
	11.45-12.15	30	Humus and pedofauna	T	Augusto Zanella	University of Padua, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
	12.15-12.45	30	Soil invertebrates: functional biodiversity and ecosystem services	T	Cristina Menta	University of Parma, Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability
	12.45-13.30	45	Relationships between Soil Microorganisms and Soil Fauna	T	Paolo Nannipieri Stefano Mocali	University of Florence CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	13.30-14.00	30	Lunch			
Monday afternoon September 1 st , 2025	14.00-15.00	60	Free tutored study			
	15.00-16.00	60	Database for soil health assessment	T	Giovanni L'Abate	CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	16.00-17.00	60	Practices for microarthropod sampling	P	Miguel Angel Gambelli	CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	17.00-18.00	60	Practices for macroarthropod sampling	P	Alessandro Campanaro	CREA Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification
	18.00-19.00	60	Different Berlese-Tüllgren extractors	P	Carlo Jacomini Lorenzo D'Avino	ISPRA CN_Lab CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	19.00	120	Welcome party			
Tuesday morning September 2 nd , 2025	8.00-9.00	60	Free study			
	9.00-11.00	120	Nematode sampling excursion and extraction methods	P	Silvia Landi	CREA Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification
	11.00-11.15	15	Coffee Break			
	11.15-12.00	45	Relationships between soil protists and microfauna	T	Stefan Geisen	Wageningen University, Laboratory of Nematology
	12.00-12.45	45	Protista	T	Letizia Modeo	University of Pisa, Department of Biology
	12.45-13.30	45	Tardigrada/Rotifera	T	Diego Fontaneto	CNR Water Research Institute
	13.30-14.00	30	Lunch			
Tuesday afternoon September 2 nd , 2025	14.00-15.00	60	Free tutored study			
	15.00-16.00	60	Ecology of Nematoda	T	Maria Viketoft	Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
	16.00-17.00	60	The Crucial Role of Nematodes in Agriculture and Ecosystem Restoration	T	Barbara R.I. Manachini	University of Palermo, Department of Science of Agriculture, Food and Forest
	17.00-19.00	120	Free tutored study			

* to be confirmed

Day	Scheduled time	Time (minutes)	Topic	Theory or practice	Speaker	Affiliation
Wednesday morning September 3 rd , 2025	8.00-9.00	60	Free study			
	9.00-10.00	60	Microarthropods, Role and Functions	T	Carlo Jacomini	ISPRA National Centre for the Italian Laboratories' Network
	10.00-10.30	30	Ecological role of Proturans	T	Loris Galli	University of Genoa, Department of Earth, Environmental and Life Sciences
	10.30-11.00	30	Soil spiders	T	Malayka Picchi	CNR Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems
	11.00-11.15	15	Coffee Break			
	11.15-12.15	60	QBS-ar calculation workout	P	Lorenzo D'Avino	CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	12.15-12.30	15	Microarthropod indices in European long-term-experiments	T	Elena Tondini	CREA Research Centre for Agriculture and Environment
	12.30-13.00	30	Inoculant impact on microarthropods in European cropping systems	T	Gaia Bigiotti	CREA Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification
	13.00-13.30	30	QBS-ar in natural reserves	T	Martina Coletta	University of Camerino
	13.30-14.00	30	Lunch			
Wednesday afternoon September 3 rd , 2025	14.00-15.00	60	Free tutored study			
	15.00-16.00	60	Enchytraeidae	T	Celine Pelosi	INRAE National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment/ Avignon Université
	16.00-17.00	60	Acari*	T	Zoë Lindo	University of Western Ontario, Department of Biology Biological & Geological Sciences Building
	17.00-19.00	120	Free tutored study			
Thursday morning (September 4 th , 2025)	8.00-9.00	60	Free study			
	9.00-11.00	120	Macrofauna and megafauna trapping excursion and iNaturalist identification	P	Alice Lenzi	CREA Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification
	11.00-11.15	15	Coffee Break			
	11.15-12.00	45	Myriapoda	T	Alessandro Minelli	University of Padua
	12.00-12.45	45	Ecological role of ants	T	Alberto Masoni	University of Florence, Department of Biology
	12.45-13.30	45	Coleoptera	T	Luca Bartolozzi	University of Florence
Thursday afternoon (September 4 th , 2025)	13.30-14.00	30	Lunch			
	14.00-15.00	60	Free tutored study			
	15.00-15.45	45	Earthworms	T	George Brown	Embrapa Florestas, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
	15.45-16.30	45	Soil Gasteropoda	T	Andrea Benocci	Natural History Museum – Academy of the Fisiocritici
	16.30-17.00	30	Vertebrata*	T	Anna Loy	University of Molise, Department of Biosciences and Territory
	17.00-19.00	120	Free tutored study			
Friday morning (September 5 th , 2025)	8.00-9.00	60	Free study			
	The laboratory activities, each with a duration of two hours, will be conducted in rotation and will focus on the identification of nematodes, microarthropods and earthworms.					
	9.00-11.00	120	Nematode identification practice	P	Fabio Gatti	University of Parma, Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability
	11.00-11.15	15	Coffee Break			
	11.15-13.15	120	Microarthropods identification practice	P	Sara Remelli	University of Parma, Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability
Friday afternoon (September 5 th , 2025)	13.15-13.30	15	Lunch			
	13.30-14.30	60	Free study			
	14.30-16.30	120	Macrofauna and humus identification practice	P	Federico Gavinelli	University of Padua, Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural Resources, Animals and the Environment
	16.30-17.30	60	Open discussion and free tutored study			
	17.30-18.30	60	Exam test for certification			

* to be confirmed