

Marco ISAIA

ORCID: 0000-0001-5434-2127

Scopus Author ID: 15029848300

Researcher ID: I-1629-2015

Research gate: www.researchgate.net/profile/Marco_Isaia

Since 2008 he is Associate Professor in Ecology at the University of Torino, where he teaches Ecology in the Bachelor Program of Natural Sciences and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Master Program in Science of the Natural Systems.

He is member of the board of the PhD Program in Biology and Applied Biotechnology and member of several Commissions within the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology. He regularly serves in Bachelor and Master adjudicating Boards as well as in PhD Boards, within his University and abroad. He is licensed as Associate Professor in Ecology, Zoology and Entomology. He has been recently licensed as Full Professor in Ecology.

His scientific activity focuses mainly on ecology and systematics of Italian spiders, with special reference to cave-dwelling and high Alpine species.

His research group is the only one currently engaged in arachnological research within Italian universities. In particular, he mainly deals with the use of spiders as model organisms in ecological studies. The topics addressed in the research concern the response of spider communities to anthropogenic disturbances including climate change and urbanization. He has been recently working on the use of spiders in studies related to biomonitoring, adaptations and ecological niche, functional ecology, speciation dynamics and the conservation of endangered species. The ecological research activity is accompanied by considerable scientific production in the field of fauna and taxonomy of Italian spiders.

Research on cave dwelling species focuses on the relationship that links the presence of relict species to the environmental features of the underground ecosystem, including, primarily, temperature. Currently he conducts research on the effects of anthropogenic perturbations on underground ecosystems. He is currently leading the Project of National Relevance "Showcave", focusing on the sustainability of cave tourism and the effect of anthropogenic disturbance in hypogean ecosystems. He is author of more than 200 scientific publications (H index: 31; Source Google Scholar 2021), of which about 100 in indexed journals.

He is member of the Expert Board of "Araneae Spiders of Europe", member of the IUCN Group of Specialists for Spiders and Scorpions and Global Red List Assessor since 2016. In light of his scientific production in cave-based science, he has been nominated Expert Member in the Technical Commission of the Regional Speleological Heritage of Regione Piemonte (2015-2020).

He is member of the Council Board of the European Society of Arachnology since 2011 and served as member of the Scientific and Organizing Committees in many editions of the Conference, both European and International (Christchurch 2019, Vac 2018, Nottingham 2017, Golden 2016) and in the Evaluation Panels of the Student awards. He was Head of the 28th European Congress of Arachnology held in Torino (2014). He regularly participates in ESA Congresses and in Council Meetings in which he is actively involved. In 2011 he started the ESA Newsletter, for which he still currently acts as the main Editor.

As for his future role in ESA, he aims to continue to be involved with the Newsletter, to promote inclusion and visibility of young arachnologists, and to continue raising awareness of spider biodiversity in the Mediterranean basin.