Marco ISAIA

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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 Coordinator of the Master Course in Sciences of the Natural Systems 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, Conservation and Taxonomy of Italian spiders, with special reference to cave-dwelling and high Alpine species.

His research group is engaged in arachnological research mostly focusing on 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 involved in the Research Project funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan focusing the effect of urbanization on biodiveristy. He is author of more than 200 scientific publications (H index: 32; Scopus, 2025), of which about 130 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 Assesor 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 Archnology 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.