




Le collezioni naturalistiche  
sono ancora utili alla  
ricerca del terzo millennio?

**Leonardo Latella**

Museo di Storia Naturale di Verona

Ferrara, Seminario Collections, 16 dicembre 2021



The image shows a perspective view into a storage room for natural history collections. On the right side, there are tall wooden cabinets with many small drawers, some of which are open, revealing more specimen trays. The floor and the lower part of the room are filled with numerous wooden trays, each containing a large number of pinned butterfly specimens. The butterflies are arranged in neat rows and columns on each tray, showing a variety of colors and patterns. The lighting is somewhat dim, typical of an archival storage area.

Le collezioni naturalistiche sono raccolte sistematizzate (identificate, classificate e ordinate) di materiale biologico o di dati ad esso correlati. La maggior parte di queste raccolte sono depositate in musei di storia naturale o scientifici, ma anche in università, centri di ricerca o anche totalmente, in collezioni private o in banche dati online.



A large stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is mounted on a vertical pin, which is secured into a red rectangular base. The beetle is shown in a lateral view, highlighting its large, pincered mandibles and segmented legs. Several white identification labels are attached to the pin. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

A large stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is mounted on a silver-colored metal pin. The beetle is dark brown with prominent, curved mandibles. It is positioned on a red rectangular base. Several white labels are attached to the pin, providing information about the specimen, including its scientific name, collection date, and location. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

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A large stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is mounted on a silver-colored pin, which is secured into a red rectangular base. The beetle is shown in a lateral view, highlighting its large, dark, glossy body and prominent, segmented mandibles. Below the beetle, four white identification labels are attached to the pin. The top label reads 'LUCANUS CERVUS', the second 'MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE', the third 'MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE', and the bottom label 'MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE'. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

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# Approcci “Classici” alle collezioni

## Studi morfologici

sistematica

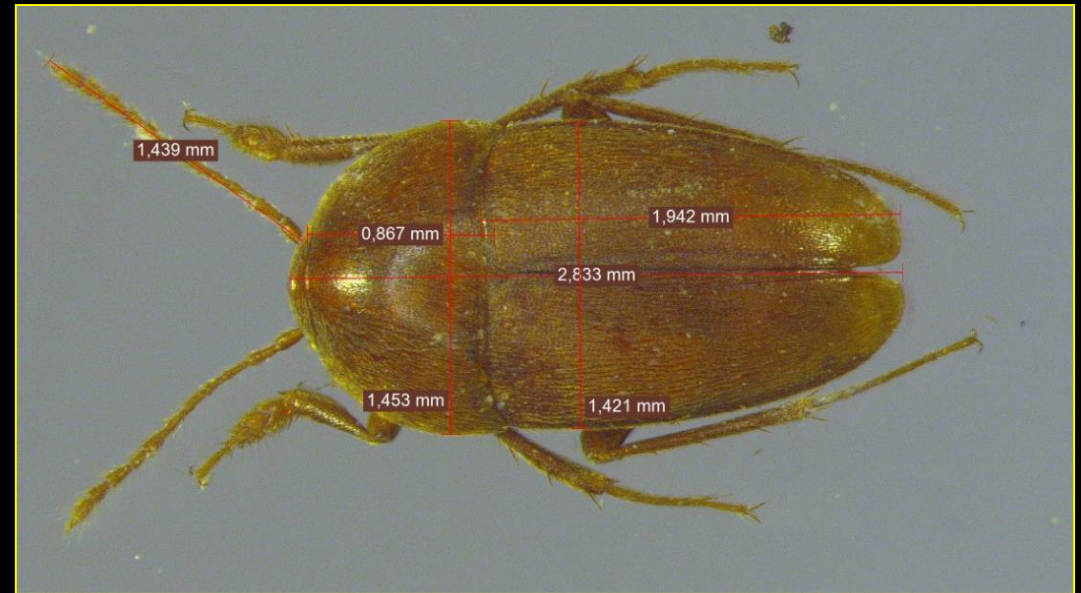
biologia dello sviluppo

...

## Data mining

utilizzo dei dati estratti dal/i cartellino/i  
ricerca di pattern in ampi data set

...







Agricoltura

Salute pubblica

Biodiversità

Modelli di distribuzione

Conservazione

Monitoraggio ambientale

Descrizione di nuove specie

Raccolta dati biologici

Paesaggio e cambiamento climatico

Mostre ed esposizioni permanenti

...





Grazie alle moderne tecniche informatiche e alla diffusione di internet, i dati di molte collezioni sono inseriti in dataset condivisi e spesso compresi in progetti transnazionali o sono state create vere e proprie «collezioni di informazioni biologiche» (GeneBank, BOLD System, Protein Data Bank)



# Specific Enzymatic Amplification of DNA In Vitro: The Polymerase Chain Reaction

K. MULLIS, F. FALOONA, S. SCHARF, R. SAIKI, G. HORN, AND H. ERLICH  
Cetus Corporation, Department of Human Genetics, Emeryville, California 94608

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology, Volume LI. © 1986 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 0-87969-052-6/86 \$1.00



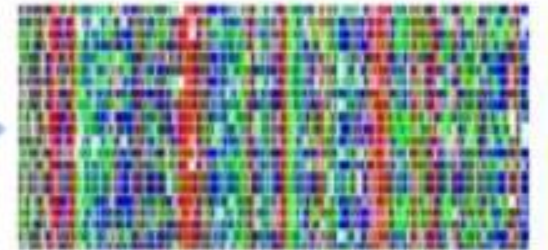
Sampling process.



Extract DNA from the subject.



Amplify the extracted DNA and analyze its sequence.



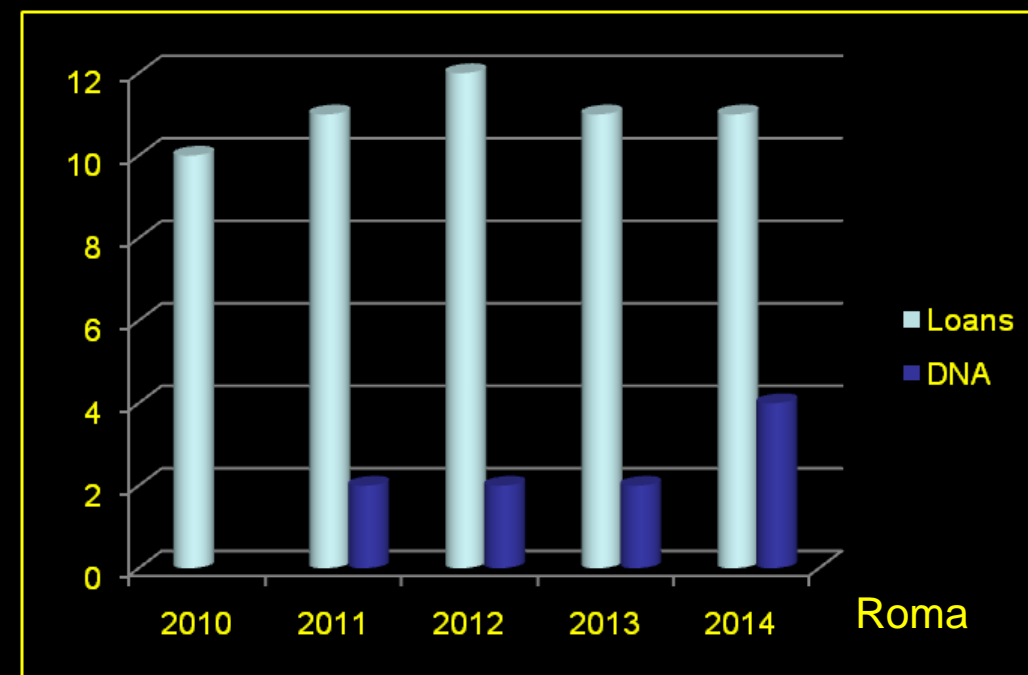
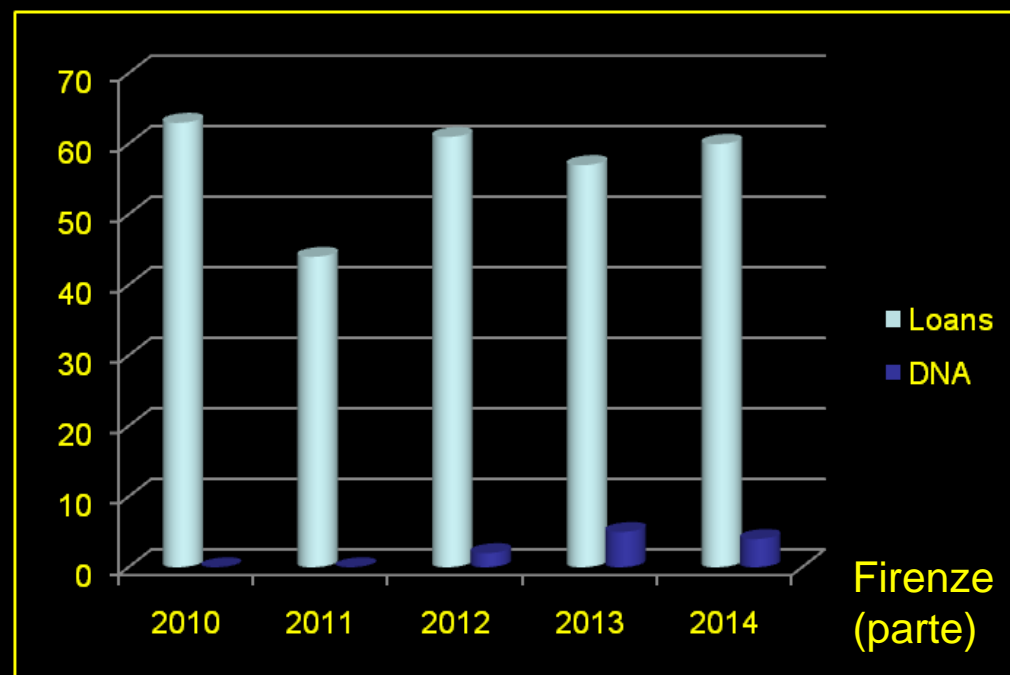
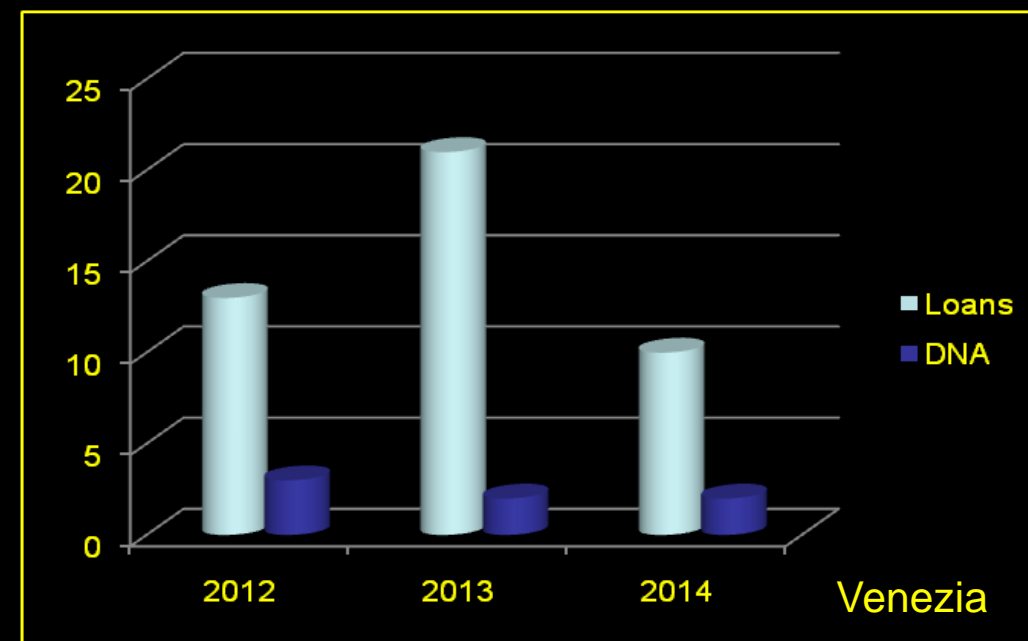
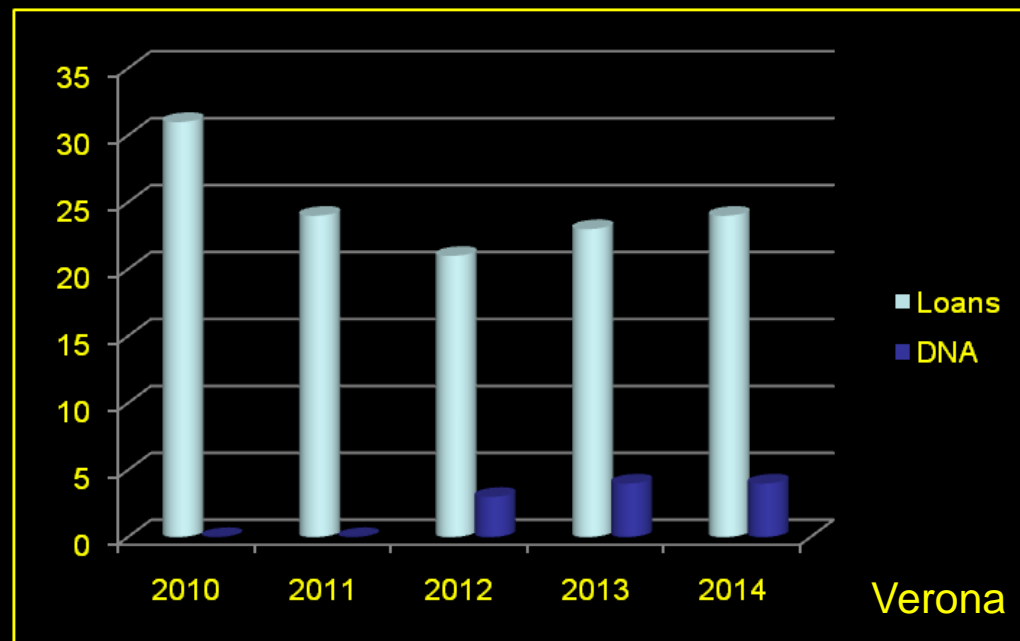
Result: the species' DNA barcode data.



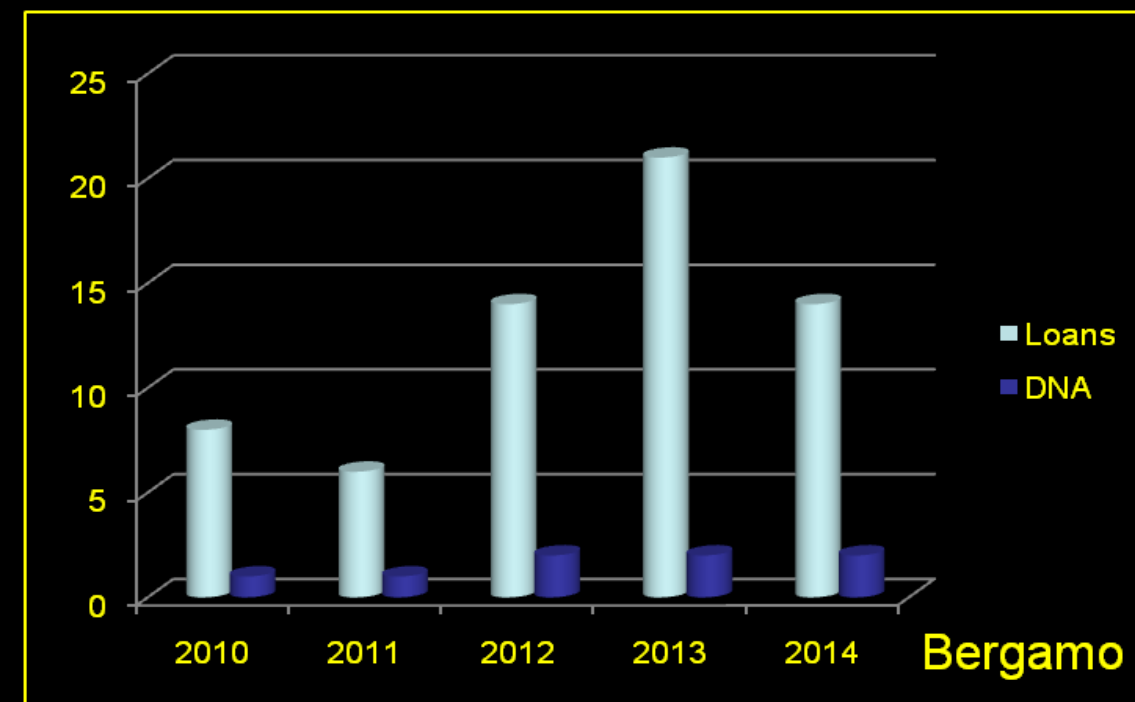
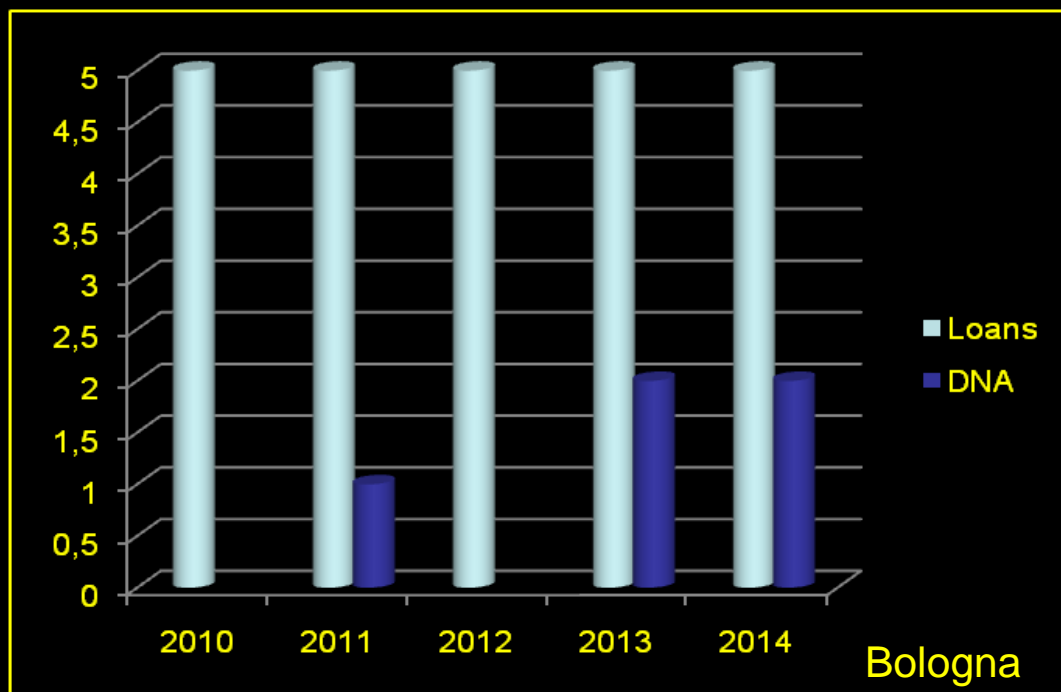
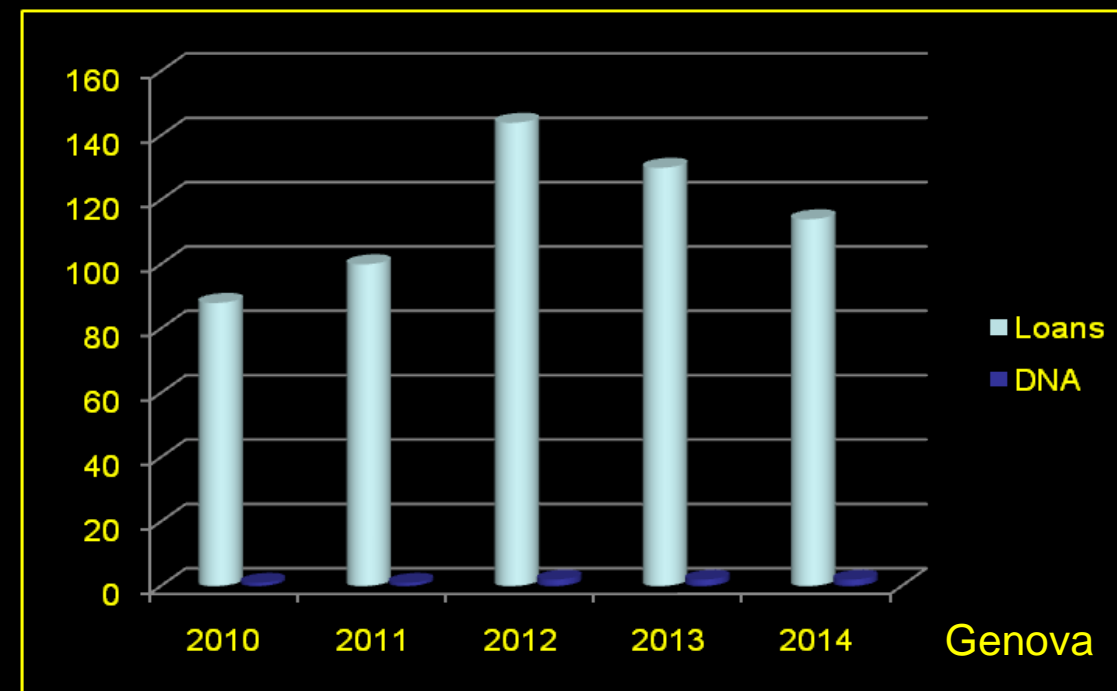
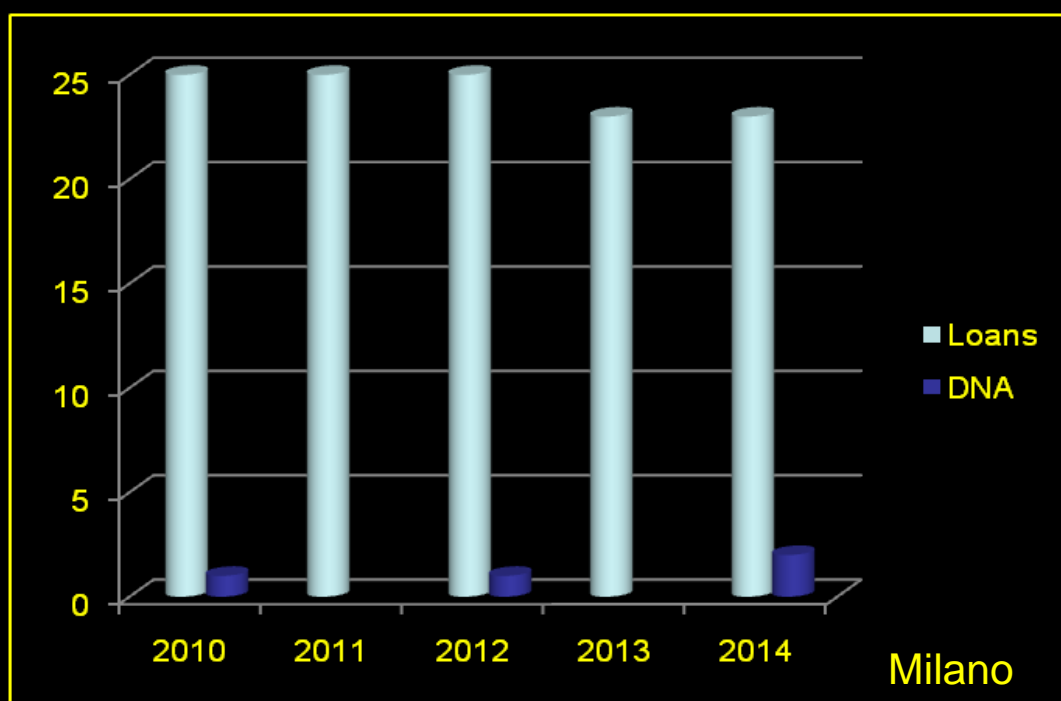




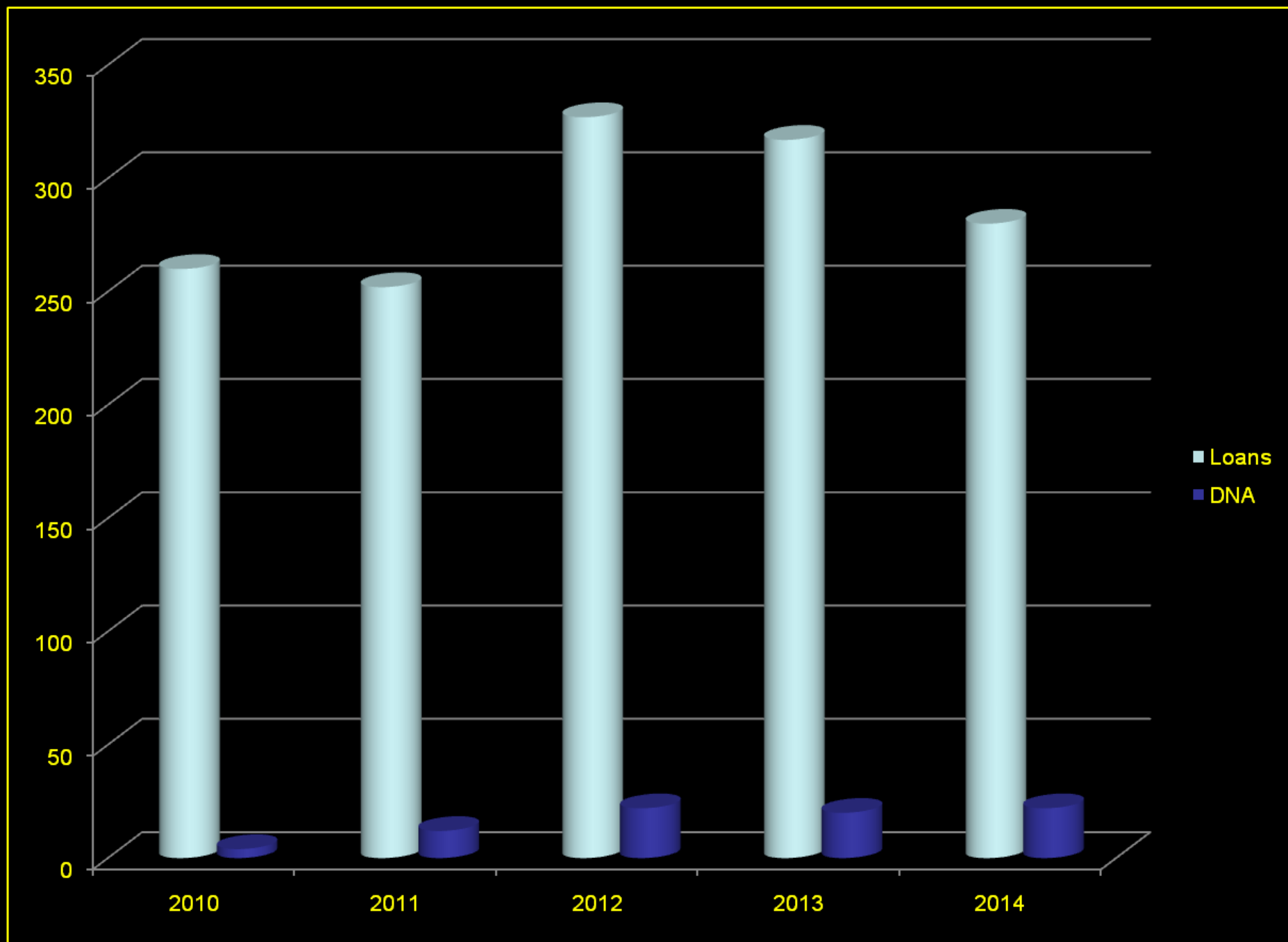












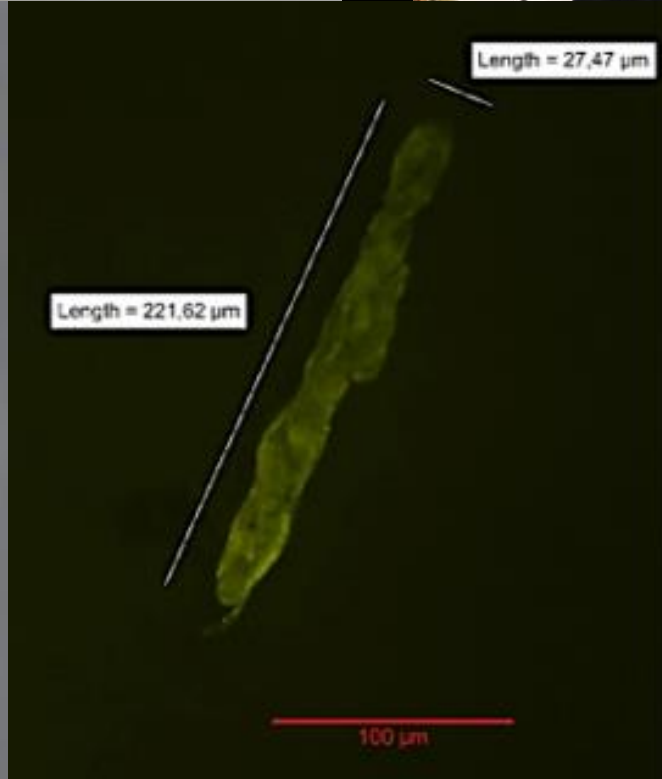
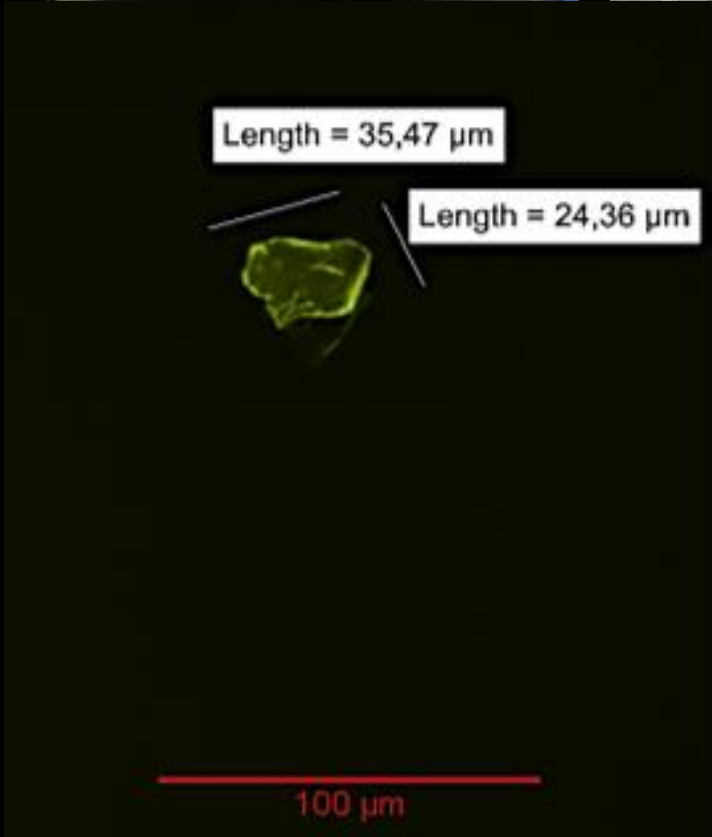
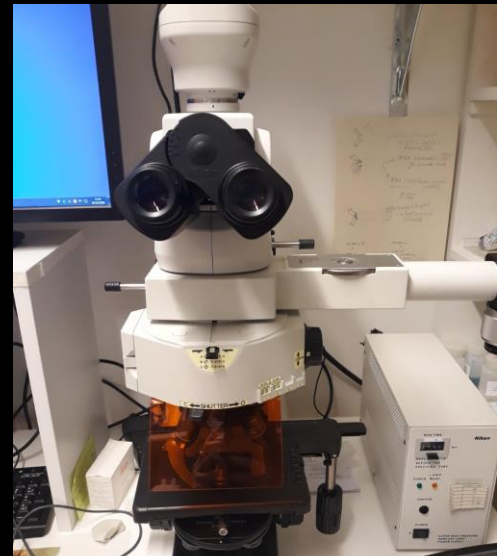








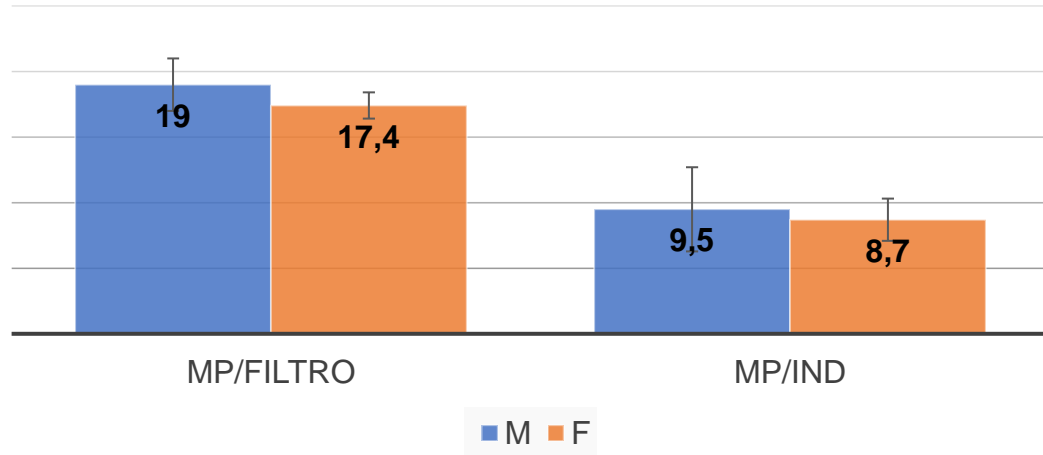




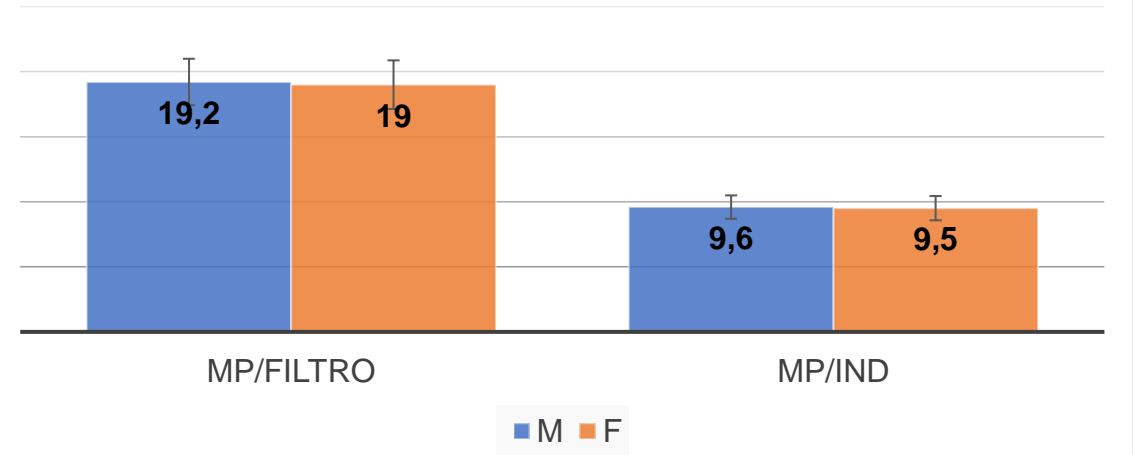


# Abbondanza di microplastiche per sito

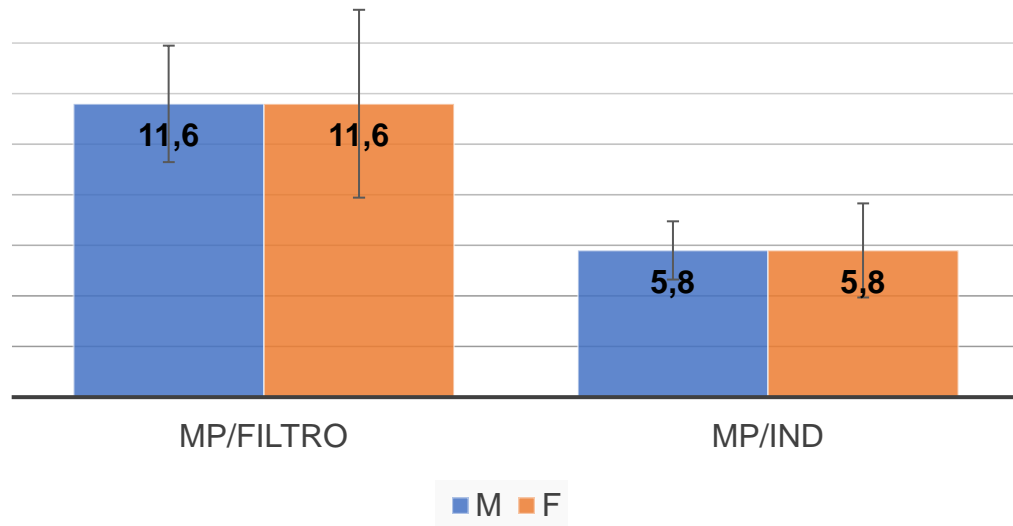
**Bardolino** media $\pm$ ds= **9,1  $\pm$ 0,57**



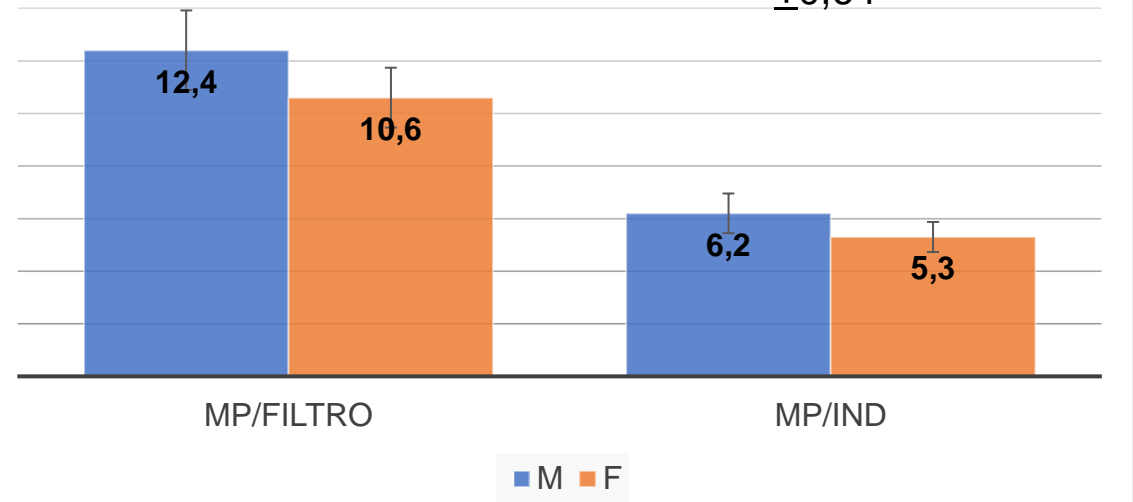
**Lugana** media $\pm$ ds= **9,5  $\pm$ 0,07**



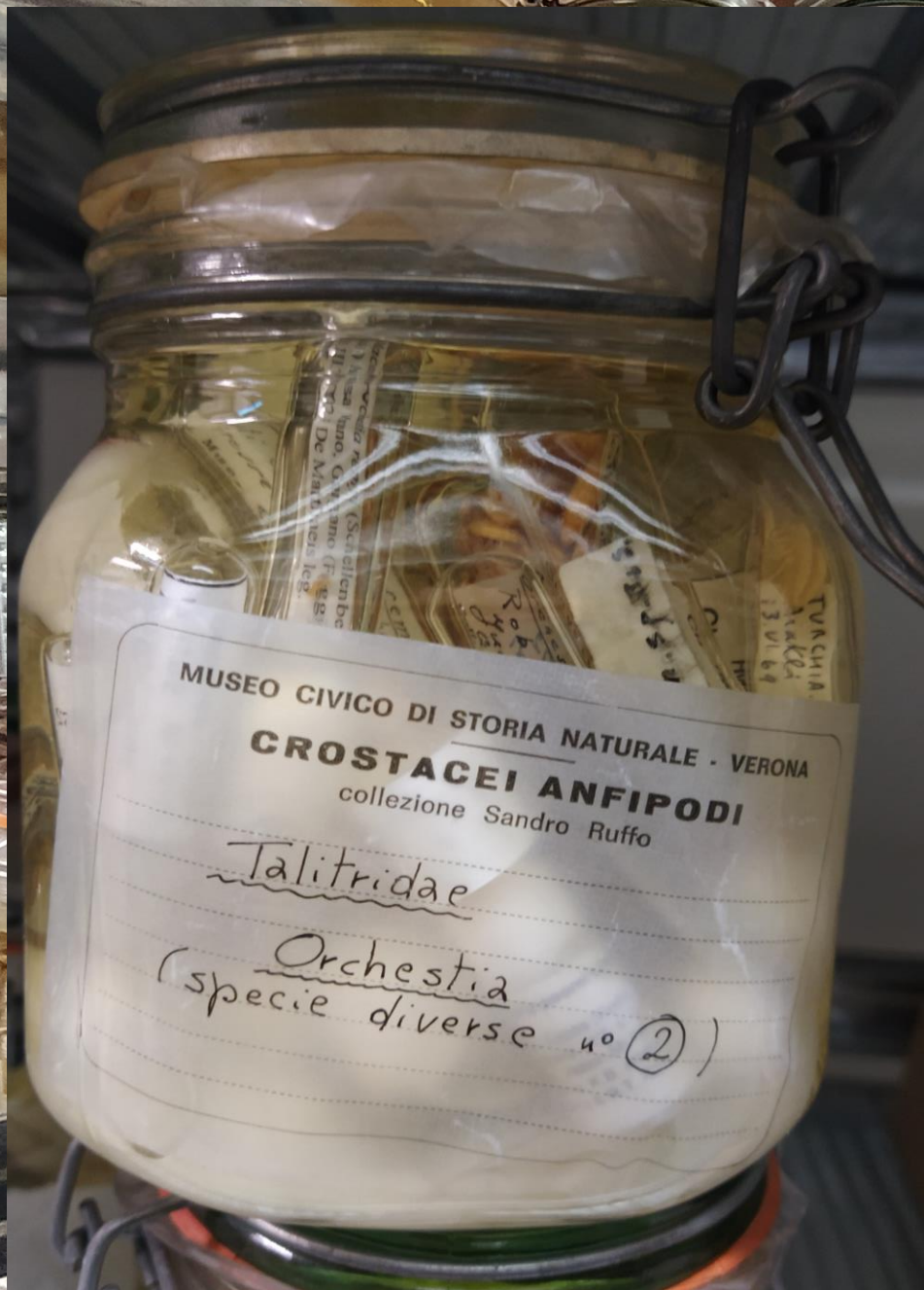
**Riva del Garda** media $\pm$ ds= **5,8  $\pm$**



**Toscolano-Maderno** media $\pm$ ds= **5,7  $\pm$ 0,64**









Orchestia cavimana

Lago di Garda - Heller

tr. Desenzano

5. 1895 ex coll.

Coll. Mus. Civ. St.

Verona

Orchestia cavimana

Fiume Arno - Heller

Rosano (Firenze)

29. 9. 1947 F. J. leg.

Coll. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Verona

Orchestia cavimana Heller

Molino della Madonna

presso il Tartaro (Verona)

15. 4. 1964 S. Ruffo leg.

Coll. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Verona

Coll. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Verona

## A new species of mole-rat (Rodentia, Bathyergidae) from the Horn of Africa

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### Abstract

A new species of mole-rat with a striking colour pattern is described from a single mounted specimen in the historical collection of the 'Museo Civico di Zoologia' in Rome, Italy. The lack of skull and original collecting data does not allow the gathering of firm evidences about its taxonomic relationships, geographical range and ecological preferences. This taxon is provisionally allocated to the recently created genus *Fukomys* Kock, Ingram, Frabotta, Honeycutt and Burda 2006 on the grounds of pelage colour pattern and geographical origin. All the available evidence, including label and other fragmentary historical data, supports *Fukomys ilariae* **sp. nov.** as originating from the Lower Shebelle region near Mogadishu, Somalia, historically known as Benadir. This discovery highlights the relevance for biodiversity conservation of the Horn of Africa and the need of further faunistic research to describe its fauna.

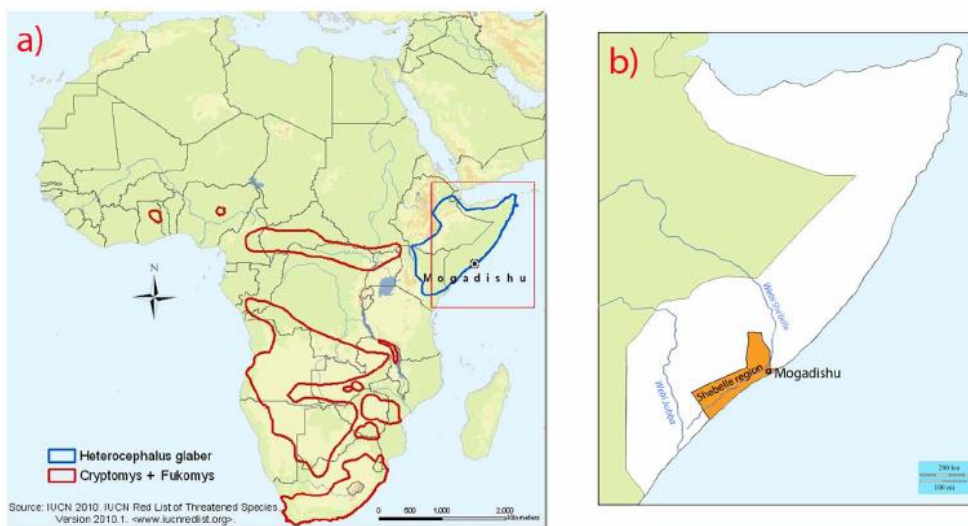


FIGURE 3. a) Map of Africa showing the approximate geographical ranges of the genera *Cryptomys*, *Fukomys* and *Heterocephalus*, together with the geographical location of Mogadishu; b) map of Somalia showing Lower Shebelle region.



# Global changes and animal phenotypic responses: melanin-based plumage redness of scops owls increased with temperature and rainfall during the last century

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The ecological effects of global climate changes include shifts of species' distribution and changes in migration strategies and phenotype. Colour polymorphism, which can be envisaged as a species' evolutionary response to alternating conditions or to a wide range of habitats, may be affected by climate changes as well. The scops owl (*Otus scops*) shows two main colour morphs, dark- and pale-reddish, as well as intermediate morphs. We investigated temporal trends in an index of plumage colour of Italian scops owls from museum collections (1870–2007). We found a significant increase in plumage redness over the last century, which was correlated with an increase in temperature and rainfall of the years before specimen collection. However, the temporal increase in plumage redness persisted after controlling for climatic variables, suggesting that other environmental factors could be involved. Our study indicates that ongoing climate changes might have either shifted the selective balance between colour morphs, or differentially affected migration and movement patterns of colour morphs.

**Keywords:** climate change; colour polymorphism; evolutionary response; melanin-based coloration; morphs

The evidence for range shifts as a way of coping with ongoing climate change is overwhelming (Parmesan 2006), and examples of phenotypic changes in relation to climatic variation abound. The latter include changes in phenology (reviewed in Parmesan 2006) as well as in morphology (Millien *et al.* 2006). Among phenotypic traits taken into account when studying animal responses to climate changes, intraspecific colour variation (i.e. colour polymorphism (CP); Gray & McKinnon 2007) has received little attention, except for two recent studies (Cameron & Pokryszko 2008; Lepetz *et al.* 2009). This is surprising, since CP is a widespread phenomenon in many animal taxa, and colour morphs can be considered as phenotypic genetic markers whose fitness effects are related to various ecologically important factors (Roulin 2004). Colour morphs may have directly evolved under both natural and sexual selection and also as an indirect response to selection exerted on genetically correlated attributes, e.g. on genes that regulate both melanogenesis and other physiological processes (Roulin 2004). Thus, CP may be appropriate for studying short- and long-term changes in gene frequencies under various sets of environmental conditions (e.g. Sinervo & Lively 1996).

A comparative study suggested that polymorphic species of owls showed a wider niche than monomorphic ones, since they frequented many different habitats, both open and closed, lived in seasonally alternating dry/wet climates and were active during both day and night (Galeotti & Rubolini 2004). Such results suggest that different colour patterns may be adaptive in different environmental conditions by providing behavioural or physiological advantages to their bearers. For example, in the Italian tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) populations, dark-reddish birds may suffer greater mortality in cool-dry years while being favoured in warm-wet conditions (Galeotti & Cesaris 1996). This may occur because of differences in thermoregulatory physiology among morphs (Mosher & Henny 1976). Therefore, the prevalence of dark- or pale-reddish morphs in a given population may reflect adjustments to local environment in this species, i.e. local adaptation.

If the fitness of different morphs differs between habitats, then polymorphism can be established with different equilibrium gene frequencies in different habitats or in the same habitat under different conditions. This equilibrium between morphs (and in gene frequency) may be disrupted or shifted by environmental changes, among which climate changes may play a major role through their direct and indirect effects on

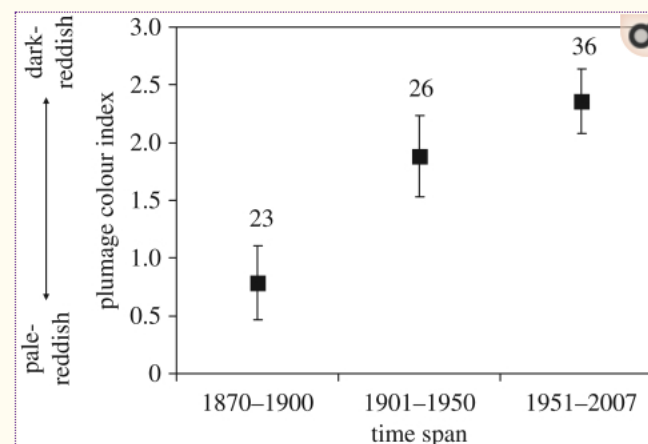


Figure 1.

Mean ( $\pm$ s.e.m.) scops owl colour index over three different time periods in Italy. Sample sizes are shown.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

We collected data from 281 scops owl specimens (1870–2007) mainly from Italian natural history museums (81.1%; electronic supplementary material). For each specimen, we obtained a continuous measure of colour plumage varying from 0 (pale-reddish individuals) to 4 (dark-reddish individuals; electronic supplementary material). The frequency distribution of colour variation was clearly bimodal (figure S1, electronic supplementary material). Details of climatic data used in the analyses (regional minimum yearly and seasonal temperature anomalies ( $^{\circ}$ C) and a rainfall index, recorded over a 5 yr period starting from the year before specimen collection, i.e. from year<sub>(n-1)</sub> to year<sub>(n-5)</sub>) are provided in the electronic supplementary material. In addition, we took into account the amount of Sahel wet season rainfall (Sahel rainfall index; electronic supplementary material), because the Sahelian savannahs probably represent an important wintering and passage area for the species (Cramp 1998). For the analyses, we considered 85 specimens in adult plumage, collected during the breeding season (May to September) (1875–2006), where the month, year and geographical location of the collection were reported.



Grazie per l'attenzione