

HISTORY OF THE APC SERIES

The series of APCs started in 1976 upon recommendation of the SCOR-Working Group of Phytoplankton Methods (WG 33), established in 1969 at the Marine Botany Section of the University of Oslo. Out of the 11 APCs organised so far, 7 were held at the SZN (1985, 1990, 1995, 1998, 2005, 2008, 2015). APC11 was organised jointly by the SZN, the University of Copenhagen and the IOC Science and Communication Centre on Harmful Algae. The faculty included experts in the major phytoplankton groups worldwide.



FACULTY

F. Cerino (Italy), M. Hoppenrath (Germany), W.H-C.F. Kooistra (Italy), C.B. Lange (Chile), J. Larsen (Denmark), N. Lundholm (Denmark), M. Montresor (Italy), Ø. Moestrup (Denmark), I. Probert (France), D. Sarno (Italy), K. Steidinger (USA), C. Tomas (USA), A. Zingone (Italy).



INVITED SPEAKERS

L. Campbell (USA)
D. Mann (UK)
R. Massana (Spain)
J. Thronsen (Norway)
D. Vaultot (France)

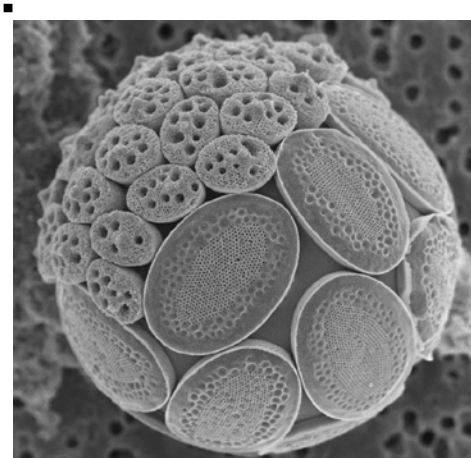
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

A. Zingone (Italy)
M. Montresor (Italy)
D. Sarno (Italy)
Ø. Moestrup (Denmark)
H. Enevoldsen (Denmark)

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

APC11 consisted of 120 hours of lessons, direct observations and seminars aimed at improving the skills of participants in phytoplankton species identification. Morphology, taxonomy and phylogeny of marine diatoms, dinoflagellates, coccolithophores and other flagellates were the core of the Course. The main topics included:

- Methods and criteria for species identification
- Methods for light and electron microscopy
- Molecular identification
- Taxonomic classification and phylogeny
- Single cell isolation, cultivation, serial dilution culturing



THE CLASSROOM



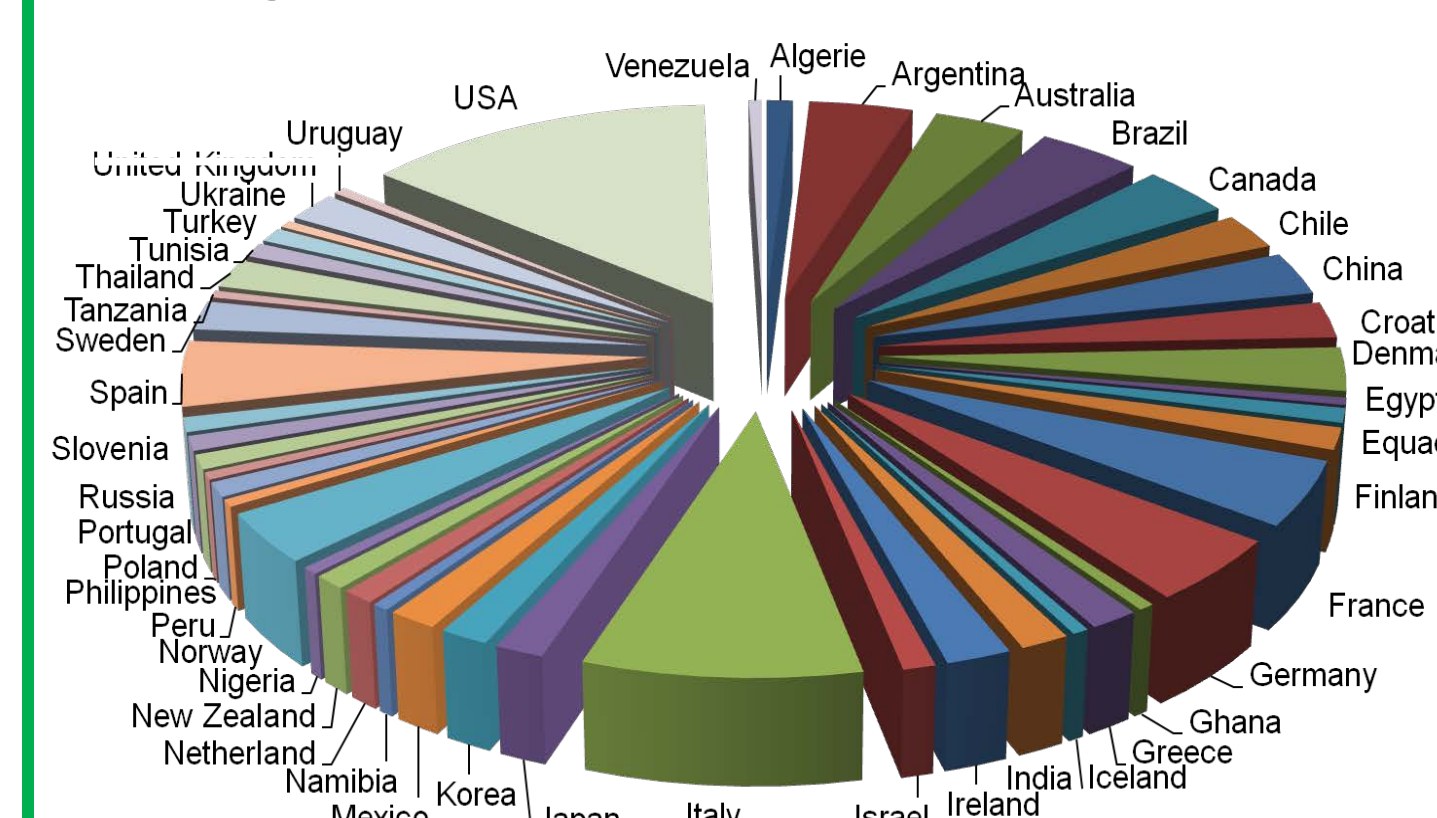
The classroom was equipped with 2 screens, where both lectures and live images from 2 microscopes were displayed.



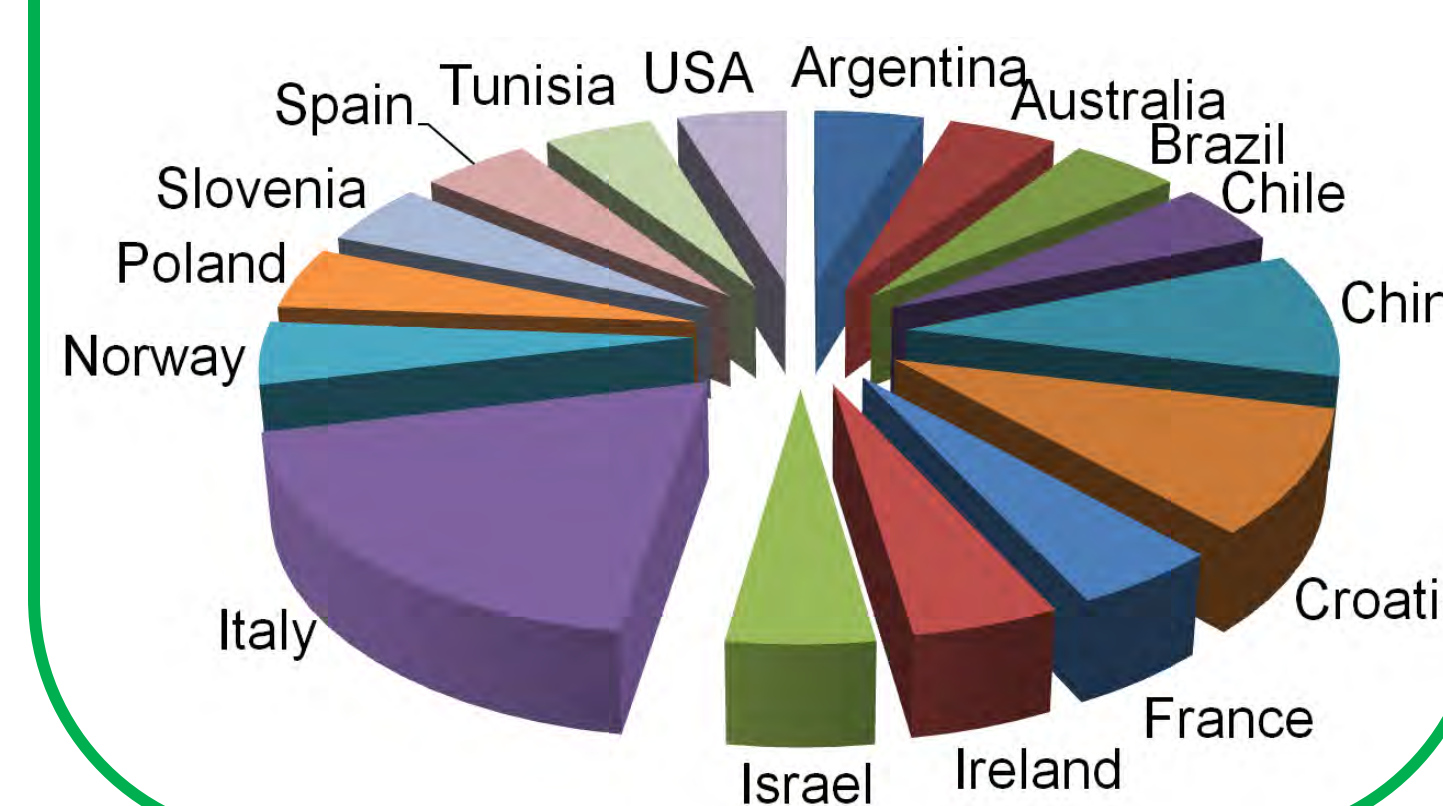
Participants' individual desks were equipped with a light microscope. A taxonomic library holding a wide book and reprint collection was available in the classroom.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 197 participants from 45 countries have attended the APCs.

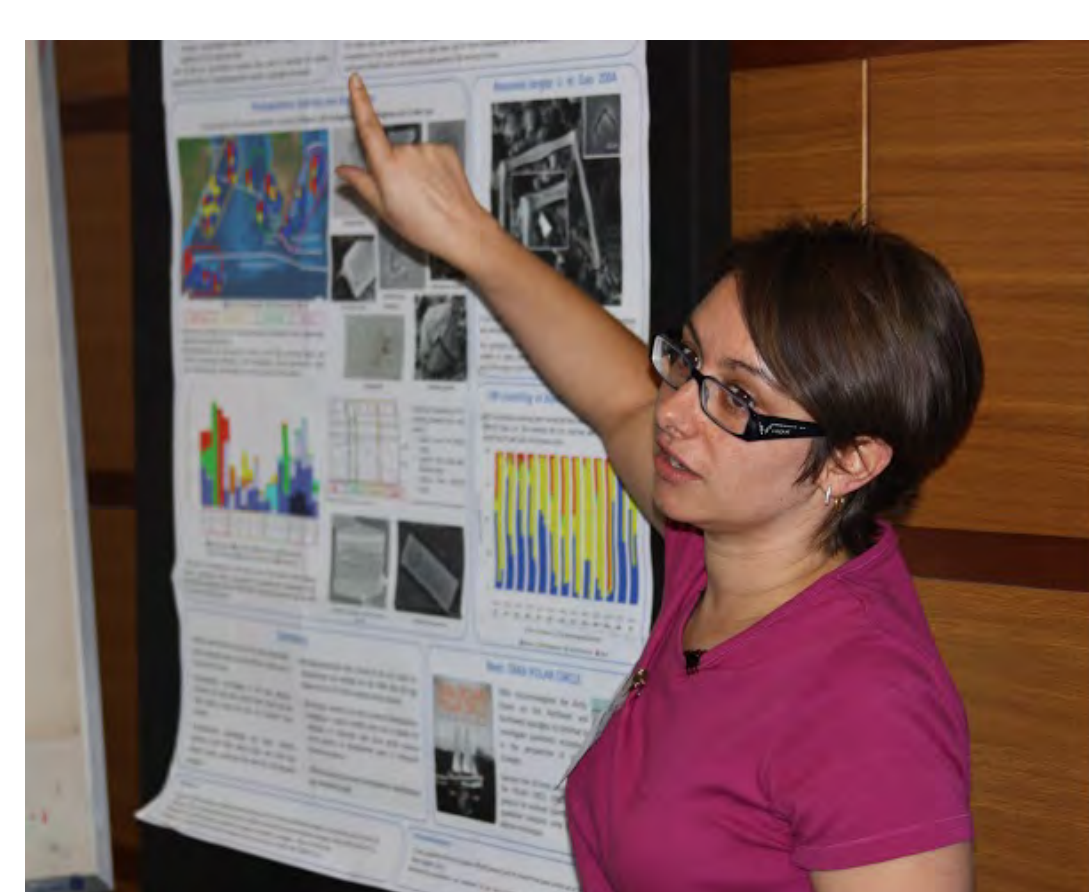


This time 21 applicants from 16 countries were selected. Selection criteria included previous experience in phytoplankton taxonomy, relevance of the Course to the position and future career of the applicant, potential to pass along the knowledge acquired during the course



POSTER SESSION

Posters illustrating the scientific activity of participants were displayed in the classroom during the Course and discussed during an evening session.



SEMINARS

- J. Thronsen: Historical aspects of taxonomy
- R. Massana: HTS approaches to taxonomy
- D. Mann: Challenging issues in taxonomy
- L. Campbell: Advanced *in situ* imaging
- D. Vaultot; Chlorophyte distribution through HTS
- A. Zingone: Quality control of data
- M. Maja: History of the SZN



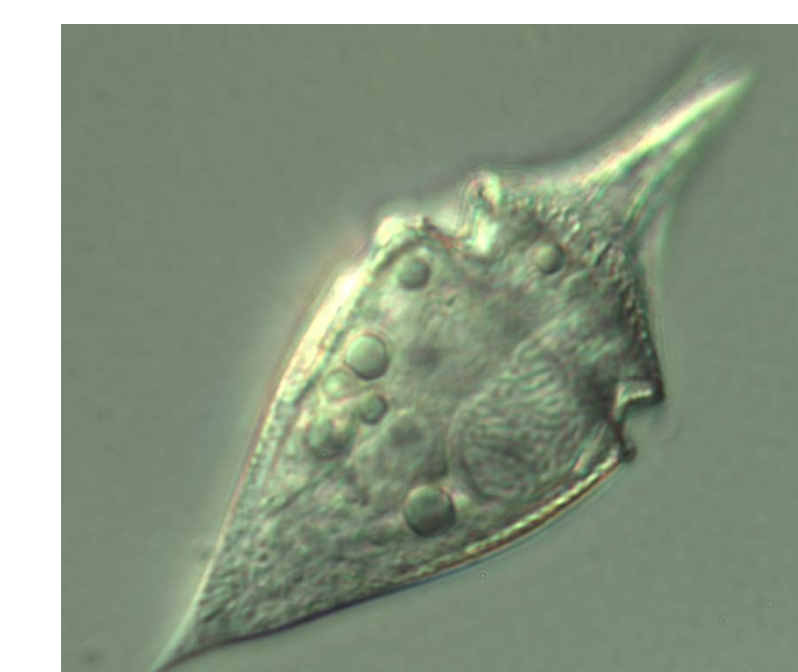
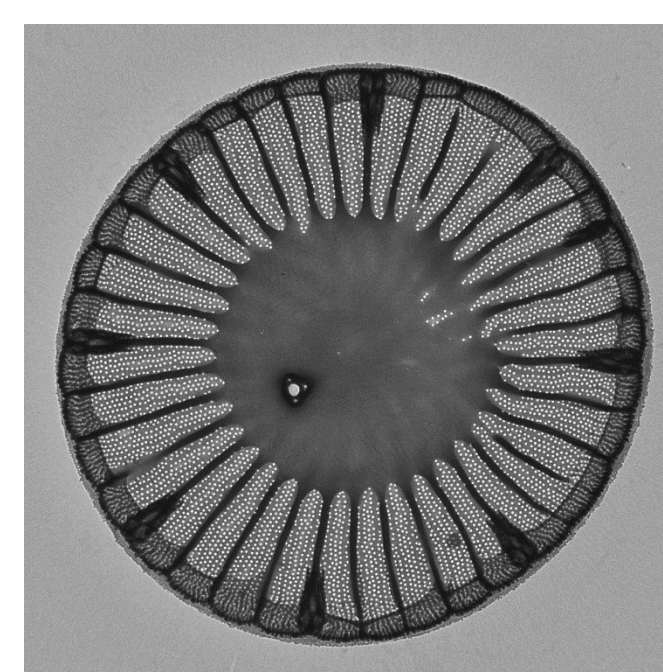
SOCIAL EVENTS

A number of social events were organised to allow for some breaks of the intensive program and enhance the cohesion of the group. These included a welcome party, dinners at restaurants and pizza places, guided tours to Pompei and the Catacombs of San Gennaro, and a social dinner.



LIGHT AND ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Lessons were integrated by observations in light and electron microscopy.



Participants undertook a final test to evaluate the improvement of their skills in species identification and filled in a questionnaire to provide their evaluation of the Course and suggestions for future courses, which were discussed during the closing session. Their comments highlighted that, despite being highly demanding, the format of the course overcame the diversity of expertise, interests and positions of participants and allowed them to improve their skills.

The exchange of knowledge and experiences and the friendly atmosphere over the APC11 days represent an important contribution to the reinforcement of the worldwide community of phytoplankton experts.

THANKS TO EUROMARINE AND THE APC 11 SPONSORS

