Dr. Verdiana Vellani
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Short CV

She graduated with honors in Ecology of Global Change in 2021 with an experimental thesis in Ecotoxicology and Ecophysiology of Marine Macroinvertebrates at the University of Trieste (Italy) entitled "Physiological response of corals exposed to a combination of heat waves and microplastics. A Mediterranean case study with Astroides calycularis (Pallas, 1766) ".
Thanks to her thesis work, she was the winner of the following prizes: 1st place, “Eugenio Rosmann” degree award; 1st place, "Ennio Vio" Study Award; 3rd place, prize for degree thesis in marine biology “Il Pianeta Azzurro”.
After graduation, she spent 6 months as Research Assistant at the University of Trieste, Department of Life Sciences (DSV), benthos ecology laboratory.
She has been qualified as a Biologist in Italy since 2021. She is a diver with several licences (including the latest Deep Diver and Coral Restoration) and has recently been accepted as a European Scientific Diver (A.I.O.S.S).
The winning of the "Paolo Brancaccio Scholarship 2022" allowed her to carry out a post-graduate internship abroad lasting 3 months, carried out at Prince of Songkla University (Hat Yai, Thailand) and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. The project concerned the effects of different oxygen concentrations on different tropical coral species.
She is currently a PhD student (XXXVIII cycle) with topic M / 5 ("Ecotoxicological responses in model marine species in relation to the effects of global change") funded by the University of Trieste, whose project manager is Prof. Monia Renzi. She also collaborates, also for sampling, with CoNISMa "National Inter-university Consortium for the sciences of the sea" and writes articles on environmental issues for a local periodical newspaper.

Research

Her PhD research activity is aimed at studying the ecotoxicological effects on marine animals in response to global changes. The study will focus on former habitat organisms and different biological and ecotoxicological assays will be used to evaluate the interference of global changes taking place on these organisms. The need to carry out these tests derives from the fact that there is a growing interest in understanding how anthropic stress factors, such as temperature increase, ocean acidification, pollution (also from emerging pollutants such as plastics), chemical stress and others, may impact on the life of marine organisms. In particular, marine bioconstructors are of great biological and ecological interest for the biodiversity associated with them, but also activities directly related to humans, such as protecting the coast from erosion.

Publications

1. Bevilacqua, Stanislao; Vellani, Verdiana; Fabbrizio, Paolo; Falace, Annalisa; Ciriaco, Saul; Segarich, Marco; Spoto, Maurizio. Multidecadal monitoring highlighted long-term stability of protected assemblages within a Mediterranean marine reserve. Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science 274:107946. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecss.2022.107946

Further information:

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Y4cZZb0AAAAJ&hl=it
ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Verdiana-Vellani?ev=hdr_xprf&_sg=fZ41AD6wvHFMCuAsatnZSrG7neS3UWf5ZBJTURBLagUCmLEKdB2BNrptu_7SL-CGbJjETQX27bfMgdpiKonmdKK8
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