

Scuola di Alta Formazione Universitaria in Tematiche della Biodiversità

Trait-based ecology: from theory to R tools

31 marzo — 4 aprile 2025 | Palermo

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This course offers updated concepts and methods on the use of trait-based tools in ecology, exploring various ecosystems and organism types. It focuses on the analysis of ecological processes (niche partitioning, species interactions, community assembly, ecosystem processes) and the application of traits as bioindication tools. Includes theoretical lectures, interactive discussions and hands-on activities on R, allowing participants to analyze their own data with support from faculty. Intended for PhD students, post-docs, researchers and motivated students, it aims to strengthen the theoretical and quantitative foundations of functional ecology, preparing participants to exploit key trait-based methodologies.

Intensive training on brown seaweed taxonomy with a focus on Mediterranean Sargassaceae and Dictyotaceae

26 maggio — 30 maggio 2025 | Palermo

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The course aims to provide participants with up-to-date expert knowledge on the taxonomy and identification of brown seaweeds, with a focus on Mediterranean Sargassaceae and Dictyotaceae. This intensive, one-week course will include lectures on the biology, ecology, and taxonomy of brown seaweeds, as well as techniques for specimen preservation. Practical sessions using microscopes will allow participants to examine live and preserved specimens (particularly the taxa most frequently encountered), analyze them with light microscopy, and identify them using the latest identification keys. Moreover, a half-day field trip will be organized, weather permitting, to give participants a hands-on understanding of seaweed distribution, particularly in the intertidal zone.