

# CV Chiara Romano

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## Present Address:

University of Gastronomic Sciences  
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## **Present Position**

Oct '21 - Present Assistant Professor of Ecology, University of Gastronomic Sciences, Bra (Italy)

## **Education**

- July '01- Feb. '05 **PhD in Marine Biology**, University of Palermo, Italy.  
Thesis: Predator-prey relationship between *Sparus aurata* (Pisces, Sparidae) and molluscs with a view of conservation and management of the marine shoals and coastal shallow environments.  
Supervisor: Prof. A. Mazzola.
- Mar. 1999 **B.Sc honours degree in Biology with specialisation in Ecology**,  
University of Palermo, Italy  
Mark: First Class Honours (110/110 cum laude)  
Thesis: Physiological Energetics of *Brachidontes pharaonis* (P. Fischer, 1870) (Bivalvia, Mytilidae) in a Saltwork near Marsala (West Sicily, Italy)

## **Work experience**

- Oct. '21 – Sep. '22 **Researcher** in Marine Ecology and Biology, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, C.da Torre Spaccata, Amendolara (CS), Italia
- 2019-2021 Contract as **Marine Biologist** at Centre d'Estudis Avancats de Blanes (CEAB-CSIC), Blanes, Spain.
- 2015 -2018 **Post-doctoral researcher – Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellow** Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), La Jolla, California (University of California, San Diego) and Centre d'Estudis Avancats de Blanes (CEAB – CSIC), Blanes, Spain.  
Studying diversity, phylogeny and connectivity of deep-sea macrobenthic communities associated with wood falls lying in submarine canyons in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.
- Oct. '09 – Jul. '14 **Postdoctoral researcher** at CEAB-CSIC (Superior Council of Scientific Research) Blanes, Girona, Spain  
Investigating deep-sea zoobenthic diversity, spatial distribution and ecology in submarine canyons and slopes of the Western Mediterranean and Cantabrian Sea
- Apr. 2013 Contract as Marine Biologist with the Golder Associates to work on the project entitled. “Establishing a quantitative description of Boka Kotorska Bay marine area to strengthen the creation and management processes of marine protected areas in Montenegro”. Financial entity: RAC/SPA Tunis.
- May 2009 Contract as Marine Biologist with Nautilus Cooperative Company (VV, Italy) in order to carry out taxonomic identification of macrobenthic polychaetes from the Elba Island, Italy. Financial entity: Terna Rete Elettrica Nazionale (Italy).
- Apr. '08 - Dic. '08 Contract as Marine Biologist at ARPA-Sicilia (Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Sicily) to work on the surveillance-monitoring programme of coastal water of Sicily, Italy within the European Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/EC).
- July - August '08 Contract with Nautilus Cooperative Company in order to carry out taxonomic identification of samples of Polychaetes from the Gulf of Trieste (Italy). Financial

entity: SNAM Rete Gas (Italy).

- Jan. 2008 Contract as Marine Biologist with Nautilus Cooperative Company in order to carry out biological sampling and drawing up of the map of *Posidonia oceanica* meadow in four areas of the Strait of Sicily, Mediterranean Sea. Financial Entity: C&C Consulting (Italy).
- Feb. '05 - Sep. '07 **Postdoctoral fellow** at CNR (Italian National Research Council) Laboratory of Coastal Marine Ecology (CNR-IAMC), Castellammare del Golfo (TP), Italy  
Working on a project that aimed to estimate the effect of the establishment of a trawling exclusion zone on the coastal marine ecosystem and in particular on the trophic food web. Responsible for the assessment of the benthic assemblage structure and biomass in two protected gulfs and in two control areas.
- July - Aug. 2007 Contract as Marine Biologist with Nautilus Cooperative to draw up biocenotic maps and carry out geophysical and biological survey by side scan sonar, Multi beam echo sounder and scuba diving in four areas of the Strait of Sicily.

### **Postgraduate Training**

- 10-31 Aug. 2018 Visiting Scientist at the Marine Genomic Laboratory, Department of Biology and Marine Ecology of the Resenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, **University of Miami**, (USA). Prof. Oleksiak. to develop the population genetics study within the DeepFall project and prepare a genomic library according to the Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS) protocol.
- Jun. - Aug. 2003 Postgraduate visiting scholar at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK.  
Investigating the impact of the cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) on sediment erodability.
- Jun. - Aug. 2002 Postgraduate visiting scholar at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK.  
Carrying out manipulative experiments and studies within her PhD thesis on the crab-bivalve (predator -prey) interaction
- May '00 –Jun. '01 Postgraduate visiting scholar at the **Plymouth Marine Laboratory**, UK.  
working on a research project entitled: Estimates of the impact of key biota on sediment dynamics and of environmental stress on bivalves.  
Tutor: Prof. John Widdows.
- Sep. '99- Apr. '00 Postgraduate training at the Department of Hygiene and Microbiology, University of Palermo. Conducted microbial analysis of water and analysis by the use of microscopic techniques to detect the opportunistic parasites of *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Pneumocisti carinii* in biological samples.
- Mar. – Sep. '99 Postgraduate training at the Marine Biology and Sea Resources Laboratory of the University of Palermo, collaboration in field and laboratory work.  
  
Conducted seawater analysis (e.g. the determination of total suspended matter, particulate organic matter, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, chlorophylls, nutrients and stable isotopes in the content of seawater) and performed studies on the biology and physiology (scope for growth) of some molluscs.

### **Research Interests and Expertise**

- Ecology, Biology, Taxonomy and Biodiversity of marine benthic invertebrates particularly Annelida, Polychaeta and Mollusca, Bivalvia (use of light and electron microscopy)
- Deep sea ecology in particular of macrofauna associated with wood falls (e.g. Wood-boring bivalves of Xylophagidae)
- Environmental Impact assessment on marine coastal and deep environments
- Use of molecular biology techniques to carry out phylogenetic analysis and description of new species: DNA profiling (Extraction, Purification, Nuclear and mitochondrial markers, PCR, Electrophoresis, Sequencing), sequence analyses, species delimitation and phylogenetic trees
- Use of Next-generation sequencing DNA analysis to study population genetics (Library preparation, ddRadSeq protocol, GBS, bioinformatics)
- Eco-physiology of bivalves and use of filter feeders as bio-indicators by the measure of Scope for

Growth (clearance rate, respiration rate and excretion rate) and environmental stress

- Use of benthic invertebrates as bio-indicators within the European Water Framework Directive
- Study of trophic food webs through the use of stable of carbon and nitrogen isotopes (preparation of samples and analysis and interpretation of results)
- Behavioural ecology and study of predator-prey relationship between fish or crabs and bivalves (methodology: quantitative behavioural analysis)
- Effect of intertidal Biota on sediment dynamics acting as sediment stabilisers or destabilisers by the use of annular flumes to quantify sediment erodability
- Application at advanced level of many statistical (parametric and not-parametric) methods; analysis of variance (ANOVA), ANCOVA (test the heterogeneity of slopes and differences between intercepts of regressions) and multivariate methods (Principal component analysis, Correspondence analysis, MDS, Cluster analysis, PERMANOVA, PERMDIST).

### **Professional Qualifications**

Since Jan. 2022. National qualification for associate professorship in the disciplinary field of Ecology (05/C1 – Bio07) Italy

Since 2019 University Lecturer Professor in Life Sciences. AQU Catalunya, España.

From Jun. 2009 Teacher qualification for Italian High School of Natural Sciences, Chemistry, Geography and Microbiology (SISS).

### **Participation in national and international research projects**

- 2018-2021 PopCOmics - Biodiversidad Marina y Genómica: de las Poblaciones a las Comunidades (CTM2017-88080), Funding Entity: MINECO/AEI/FEDER, UE. PI: Xavier Turon. Role of Chiara Romano: she participates in this project carrying out the molecular analysis to study the biogeographic pattern of distribution of Deep-sea organisms.
- 2019-Present ADAPTIVE Regional adaptation of key marine invertebrates and its local sensitivity to future environmental changes (PGC2018-100735-B-I00). Funding Entity: Spanish Plan National. PIs.: Rocío Pérez Portela, José Carlos Hernández
- 2015-2018 DEEPFALL - Macrobenthic communities associated with deep wood falls lying in submarine canyons. Marie Curie Fellowship - People Programme of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under REA grant agreement N. PIOF-GA-2013-628146. PI: Dr. Chiara Romano. Role of Chiara Romano in the project: She was the Scientific Responsible and Coordinator of the team involved. She coordinated all team members and external collaborators involved in the project, Responsible for the design of the experiments, the budget management and three students tutored within the project, she was also leader in data analysing and publication of results.
- 2016-Present ACIESTEM - Scientific approach to the data obtained in environmental management studies: taxonomy, ecology and predictive models. PI: Dr. D. Martin. Funding entity: CREOCEAN company. Role of Chiara Romano: she collaborated with the project and carried out molecular analysis for the identification of the organisms and potential descriptions of new species and collaborated in the publication of results.
- 2014-2015 MedMPAnet Project on the “Ecological quantitative description of Boka Kotorska Bay marine area (Montenegro)” by Golder Associates. Funded by RAC/SPA,
- 2011 - 2015t DOS MARES: Deep-water submarine canyons and slopes in the Mediterranean and Cantabrian seas: from synchrony of external forcing to biological resources. CICYT (ES). PIs: Prof. Canals (UB), Dr. Company (CSIC), Prof. Anadón (Uni. Oviedo). Funding Entity: Spanish Plan National. Total amount: 105.000 €. Role of Chiara Romano: she coordinated the work-package of the project relative to the study of organisms associated to the experimentally deployed wood-falls. She also

coordinated the design of experiments and the oceanographic campaigns for the sampling of the study of benthic meiofauna and macrofauna. She co-tutored one PhD student and 3 undergraduate students involved in the project and was involved in the data analysing and publication of results.

- 2011 - 2013 BENTHOMICS: Tracking changes in the marine benthos by novel molecular tools: individuals, populations, and communities. P.I. Dr. M.J. Uriz (CEAB - CSIC). Funding Entity: Spanish Plan National. Total amount: 250.000 €. Role of Chiara Romano: collaborator of Project.
- 2007 - 2011 PROMETEO: Scientific Collaborator on the project: "Integrated Study of deep canyons and slopes of the Western Mediterranean Sea: An essential habitat" CSIC-Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación Spain (Ministry of Science and Development) CICYT, Spain. PI: Dr J.B. Company (ICM-CSIC) and Prof M. Canals (UB). Funding Entity: Comisión Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnología. Total amount: 117.000 €. Role of Chiara Romano: she was involved into the oceanographic campaigns, data analysis and publication of data, she also coordinated and tutored at CEAB five undergraduate students involved into the project
- 2009 - 2010 BIOFUN: Biodiversity & ecosystem functioning in contrasting southern European deep-sea environments: from viruses to megafauna. ESF-Eurocores EuroDEEP. PIs: Sardà & Ramirez-Llodra (ICM-CSIC). Funding Entity: European Science Foundation (ESF) and CICYT. Total amount: 130.000 €. Role of Chiara Romano: collaborator of Project.
- 2009-2010 Análisis y seguimiento del impacto ecológico del temporal extremo de San Esteban (26/12/08) sobre los ecosistemas litorales del norte del levante español. PI: M.A. Mateo. Funding Entity: CSIC, Accion Especial. Total amount: 87.000 €. Role in project: Supervisor of Marta Segura, Master Student of the University of Barcelona involved in the project.
- 2010 - 2012 Study of soft bottom communities of the continental shelf along the French Guyana coastline. Funding Entity: CREOCEAN (France). Total amount: 32.000 €. Role in the project: she coordinates the CEAB's team of researchers and technicians involved in the samples processing and taxonomic identifications of organisms.
- 2005 RECS II: Integral study of a submarine canyon in the Western Mediterranean (Blanes canyon): Applications to the exploitation of the red shrimp. CYCIT, Spain. PI: Dr JB Company (ICM-CSIC). Funding Entity: Comisión Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnología. Total amount: 210.000 €. Role of Chiara Romano: she was involved in the analyses of the collected data and the publication of the data for the marine meiofauna
- 2008 BIOMARE: Identification of Biomarkers of the anthropogenic impact on marine communities: an ecosystemic approach. ICM-CSIC Barcelona. PI: J. Cartes. Funding Entity: Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (Ministry of Science and Technology). Role of Chiara Romano: collaborator of Project.
- 2005 - 2008 "Estimates of trophic ecosystem dynamics of two coastal marine environments in North Sicily" funded by MIUR (Italian Ministry of University and Research) at IRMA-CNR, Castellammare del Golfo, Italy.
- 2005 - 2008 "Prey and predators of the red mullet, *Mullus barbatus*: using stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen" funded by MIPAF (Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) at IRMA-CNR, Castellammare del Golfo, Italy. Role of Chiara Romano: she was responsible for the assessment of benthic diversity and biomass.
- 2004 BIOCE Project: "Food Web Analysis of Sandgerdi shores (Iceland) using multiple stable isotopes" funded by the European Union and University of Reykjavik (Iceland). Role of Chiara Romano: she was involved in all the phases from the grant writing during the application process, the sampling survey, data analyzing, to the publication of results

- 2002 - 2005 “Model Development of sustainable aquaculture for the conservation of Saltworks of Trapani” funded by MIPAF (Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry). Role of Chiara Romano: she was the PhD student involved in the project and participated in all the sampling campaigns, data analysing, tutoring of undergraduate students and publication of the results and technical reports.
- 1999 MED 98-070: “The Sicilian Channel anchovy fishery and the underlying oceanographic and biological process conditioning their inter-annual fluctuations” Funded by the European Communities PIs: S. Mazzola (IRMA-CNR), A. Garcia (IEO), J. Garcia (UMA). Role of Chiara Romano: she participated to a oceanographic cruise on the project.

### **Sampling methods**

ROVs, Baited traps, Grabs and Coring Devices, suprabenthic sledges Land devices, Rosette with Niskin bottles and CTDs, scuba diving.

### **Research cruises**

Since 2000, she participated, as an expert in sampling benthic environments, in 17 oceanographic surveys and 6 ROV cruises - in both in-shore and off-shore (canyons, margins and abyssal areas) areas in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific- to sample the floor between 50 and 5000 m depth. In 2016 she conducted a shore base real-time participation as an expert in benthic fauna to the Sally Ride-JASON cruise on a methane seep in the Pacific Ocean.

### **Teaching Experience**

- April-June 2021* Supervisor of Marika Mecca at CEAB-CSIC, during the Erasmus scholarship funded by the University of Bologna (Italy), Project title: “Morphological and molecular analysis of cryptic species within the family Chaetopteridae (Annelida)”.
- June 2019- Feb. 2020* Supervisor of Alba Vallovera Müller, undergraduate student of the Degree in Biology at the University of Barcelona (UB) during her final year project at CEAB-CSIC (250 h). Project title: Life in extreme environments: Ecology and diversity of deep-sea wood-boring bivalves of the Xylophagidae family from the Lucky Strike’s hydrothermal vent (Mid Atlantic Ridge)
- June-Oct 2018* Supervisor of Laila Anducas, master student of the University of Barcelona during her final year project at CEAB-CSIC (250 h). Project title: Macrobenthic communities associated with deep wood falls lying in submarine canyons: an approach to the biology of the wood-boring bivalves of the Xylophagidae family
- July-Aug. 2017* Mentor of Mariana Aguas, a student under the Stars program (Summer Training Academy for Research Success) at the University of California, San Diego during the eight-week summer research program. I was tutoring her during her lab work for the short research project and helping her to present the research results at the UCSD Summer Research Conference. Project title “A phylogenetic reconstruction of wood-boring bivalves”.
- 2010 – 2014* Annually assisting D. Martin in teaching the theoretical and practical class on “The organisms from soft substrates: elements of biodiversity and functioning” within the Master of Marine Science (University of Barcelona, Spain).
- Sept. – Dec. 2013* Supervisor of Andrea Caputo, World Campus grant holder from the Università delle Marche (Italy), during his stage and work at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: Structure of the deep-sea benthic infauna inside and outside the Blanes submarine canyon
- July 2013* Supervisor of Elena Lloret, undergraduate student at the University of Exeter, UK, during her summer research training at CEAB-CSIC.
- July - Aug. 2012* Supervisor of Nestor Sanchez, undergrad student from the University of Gerona (Spain) during his practical work and training at CEAB-CSIC (250 h). Project title: Density and biomass of *Xylophaga* spp (Mollusca, Bivalvia) in deep-sea deployed wood”.

- Mar. - Jun. 2012. Final Project Supervisor of Daphne Cortese undergraduate student of the University of Pisa, Italy during her laboratory work at CEAB and final thesis entitled: “Phylogenetic study of *Xylophaga*, wood-boring bivalve from deep submarine canyons”.
- Apr. - Jun. 2012. Supervisor of Elena Aloisio, Leonardo scholarship student from the University of Camerino (Italy) during her stage and work at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: “Analyses of growth and role in decomposition of organic terrestrial material of deep-sea wood boring bivalves”.
2011. Supervisor of Marc Antoni Melé Ballesteros, undergrad student from the University of Girona (Spain) during the practical work (250 hours) carried at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: “Study of the benthic fauna in the submarine Blanes Canyon: populations of the wood-boring bivalves in natural sunken wood”.
2011. Supervisor of Nestor Sanchez, undergrad student from the University of Gerona (Spain) during the practical work (180 hours) carried at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: Temporal variability of the benthic fauna in the Blanes Canyon: populations of *Xylophaga* in natural sunken wood.
2010. Supervisor of Javier Serrano Aguilar, undergrad student from the University of Girona (Spain) during the practical work (180 hours) carried at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: “Study of the benthic fauna of soft seabottom in the French Guyana”.
2010. Supervisor of Gerard Aubanell, undergrad student from the University of Gerona (Spain) during the practical work (250 hours) carried at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: “Estudio de la fauna bentónica de cañones submarinos Mediterráneos: análisis químico de las conchas de *Xylophaga* en función dels cañón, la ubicación y la profundidad”.
2010. Supervisor of Irene Salgado, undergrad student from the University of Gerona (Spain) during the practical work (180 hours) carried at CEAB-CSIC. Project title: “Macrofauna of the sediments in the Blanes Canyon”.
- June '11-Mar. '12. Supervisor of Claudio Arca, undergraduate student of the University of Bologna, Italy during his laboratory work carried out at CEAB and his final thesis entitled “Spatio-temporal variation of macrofaunal assemblages in the deep Blanes submarine canyon”.
- February 2009. Professor for the given course on “Ecology” at the Faculty of Medical Science, University of Palermo, Italy.
- April-June 2007 and 2008. Professor with a temporary appointment for the given courses on “Protected Areas Management” for MSc students, Faculty of Science, University of Palermo, Italy.
- April-July 2008. Professor with a temporary appointment for the given course on “Ecology of coastal lagoons” for MSc students, Faculty of Science, University of Palermo, Italy.
2007. Final Project Supervisor of Greta Giunta, student of the Degree Programme in Environmental Sciences (three years), University of Palermo. Thesis title “Metodi di studio della Polichetofauna di fondo mobile”.
2007. Final Project Supervisor of Daniele Rizzo, student of the Degree Programme in Marine Biology (three years), University of Trapani. Thesis title “Metodi di studio del macrozoobenthos di fondo mobile: Policheti come potenziali indicatori del disturbo causato dalla pesca a strascico”.
2006. Teaching Accreditation for Lecturer in Marine Biology at the University of Palermo, Italy
2005. Final Project Supervisor of Gianfranco Martino, student of the Degree Programme in Environmental Sciences (three years), University of Palermo. Thesis title “New methodology for the behavioural analysis of hatchery-reared fish”.
- May-June 2004. Teaching Assistant during the students’ laboratory and field experiences for the course in Marine Biology, University of Palermo.
2004. Final Project Supervisor of Giancarlo Marino, MSc student of the of the Degree Programme in Biological Sciences (5 years), University of Palermo during his field,

laboratory work and final thesis entitled: “Behavioural differences between wild and hatchery-reared *Sparus aurata* (L., 1758) in relation of the prey *Cerastoderma glaucum* (Poiret, 1789).”

- 2004 Final Project Supervisor of Benedetto Galifi, student of the Degree Programme in Marine Biology (three years), University of Trapani. Thesis title “Applicazioni di tecniche di Acquicoltura Sostenibile presso le Saline Trapanesi”.
- 2003-2004 Final Project Supervisor of Antonella Lentini, MSc Students of the University of Palermo (5 years), during her field, laboratory work and final thesis entitled: “Impact of the predator *Sparus aurata* (L., 1758) on macrofauna preys in saltwork systems in Sicily, western Mediterranean”
- 2003 Final Project Supervisor of Davide Accardi, student of the Degree Programme in Environmental Sciences (three years), University of Palermo. Thesis title “Indicatori di stress e immunomodulazione in *Sparus aurata*: dati preliminari sulle modificazioni indotte dal comportamento sociale di sottomissione”.
- 2002-2003 Final Project Supervisor of Letizia Troncale, MSc Students of the University of Palermo (5 years) during her field, laboratory work and final thesis entitled: “Study of the predator behavior of the fish *Sparus aurata* (L., 1758) on the prey *Cerastoderma glaucum* (Poiret, 1789).”

### **Courses attended**

- 9-13 Jan 2016 Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomy, Metagenomics, and Bioinformatics (BITMaB) Workshop. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. USA
- 7-9 Dec. 2015 Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS) Workshop held at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, USA
- Feb-March 2016 Course on “Applications in Phylogenetics” by Prof. Greg Rouse at the University of California San Diego, USA
- 12 March 2016 Workshop on RADseq analyses. California Academy of Sciences. San Francisco. USA
- 26-29 May 2014 Course on “Bioinformatics” organized by CSIC at CEAB-CSIC, Spain
- 3-14 Dec. 2012 Course on “Introductory Statistics with R” held at CEAB-CSIC, Blanes, Spain
- May – Sept 2012 Course on European and International Project Founding for Environmental Entities, held in Barcelona and organized by the Catalan Local Government, Dept. of Territory and Sustainability (48 h).
- Dec. '07-June '09 Teacher certificate course at the “Scuola specializzazione insegnanti secondari, SSiS” of the University of Palermo, Italy to become certificated teacher of science at national public high schools in Italy.
- 4-15 Sep. '06 “Detecting changes in biodiversity: experimental design and data analysis”, by Prof. M.J. Anderson, Prof. L. Benedetti-Cecchi, Prof. K.R. Clarke e Dr. R.N. Gorley, University of Pisa.
- August 2006 Advanced Scuba diver, ESA.
- 3-14 Sep. '01 “Design and Analysis of Ecological Experiments” by Prof. A. J. Underwood and Dr. M. G. Chapman organized by University of Sassari (Italy).
- 26 Oct – 2 Nov '00 “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Marine Resources” organized by the University of Palermo.
- July '99 “Benthic Ecology: Analysis of Gradients in the benthic communities” in a Marine Natural Reserve organised by the University of Palermo.
- September '98 “Study of Benthos in a *Posidonia oceanica* meadow” in a Marine Protected Area organized by the University of Palermo.
- August '96 Open Water Scuba Diver PADI course.

### **Awards and Scholarship**

- 2015-2018 Marie Curie IOF Fellowship funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under REA grant agreement N.

- PIOF-GA-2013-628146.
- Oct 09 – Oct 12 JAE postdoctoral contract (CSIC, Spain) with co-funding from the European Social Fund.
- July 01-June 04 PhD Scholarship funded by MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research).
- 2000 Research grant from Università degli Studi di Palermo to carry out the project entitled: Predatory effect of wild-caught and hatchery-reared *Sparus aurata* on macrobenthos: Laboratory Experiments.
- May '00-Mar '01 Postgraduate Leonardo da Vinci Scholarship funded by EU grant to support the research project at Plymouth Marine Laboratory (UK).
- May '00 -Jun '01 Postgraduate 1-year long research scholarship funded by the Università degli Studi di Catania to undertake a research project at Plymouth Marine Laboratory (UK).
- Oct '96 –July '97 Erasmus Scholarship, funded by EU at the University of Swansea, UK

### **Language**

English: Fluent (IELTS Certificate in August 1999 and further improvement for professional and personal reasons)  
 Spanish: Fluent  
 Catalan: Basic  
 Italian: Native language

### **Computer Skills**

Applications: MSOffice, WordPerfect, Origin, Gmav, Primer & Permanova, ArcGis9.3. Statistica, R, Mesquite, Geneious, MrBayes, Raxml, IqTree, BEAST, PAUP, FigTree, Adobe Illustrator  
 OS: Windows, Macintosh, Linux

### **General Skills**

Good communication skills & ability to work in a team environment  
 Good proficiency under stress  
 Willing to travel and relocate

### **Publications in International Journals (ISI peer-reviewed with Impact Factor)**

From Google Scholar (2022): Total number of citations 670. h-index = 15, Total Impact Factor (IF): 64

From Scopus: Total number of citation: 480, h-index = 14

1. Martin D., Mecca M.A., G. Van AN Moorsel and **C. Romano**. 2022. Citizen Science and integrative taxonomy reveal a great diversity within Caribbean Chaetoperidae (Annelida), with description of one new species. *Invertebrate Systematics*. IS21081.
2. Martin D., **C. Romano**. 2021. Morphology and sexual dimorphism of living mature adults of *Amphiduros fuscescens* (Marenzeller, 1875) (Annelida, Hesionidae, Amphidurine), first reported for the Iberian Peninsula. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 9 <https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.9.e66020> IF: 1.33
3. Chaibi M., **C. Romano**, ATF Azzouna, D. Martin. 2021. First record of *Marphysa chirigota* (Annelida: Eunicidae) in the Mediterranean Sea (Gulf of Tunis). *Mediterranean Marine Science* 22(2): 327-339. <https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.25248> IF: 1.7
4. **Romano C.**, A Nunes-Jorge, N Le Bris, GW Rouse, D Martin, C Borowski. Wooden Stepping Stones: Diversity and Biogeography of Deep-Sea Wood Boring Xylophagaidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, With the Description of a New Genus. *Front. Mar. Sci.* <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.579959/full> . IF: 3.66
5. Román S., R. Ortiz-Álvarez, **C. Romano**, E. O. Casamayor and D. Martín. 2019. Microbial



- Community Structure and Functionality in the Deep Sea Floor: Evaluating the causes of Spatial Heterogeneity in a Submarine Canyon System (NW Mediterranean, Spain). *Frontiers In Marine Science* 6:108. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00108. IF:3.086
6. Román S. L. Lins, J. Ingels, **C. Romano\***, D. Martin and A. Vanreusel, 2019. Role of spatial scales and environmental drivers in shaping nematode communities in the Blanes Canyon and its adjacent slope (NW Mediterranean). *Deep Sea Research Part I* 146:62–78. \*corresponding author: C. Romano. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2019.03.002> IF: 2.384
  7. Martin D. F. Pititto; J. Gil; P. Mura; N. Bahamon; **C. Romano**; S. Thorin; T. Schwartz; É. Dutrieux; Y. Bocquet 2019. Long-distance influence of the Rhône River plume on the marine benthic ecosystem: Descriptive ecology vs. Predictive modelling. *Science of the total Environment* 673:790–809. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.04.010> IF:4.61
  8. **Romano C.**, M.M. Flexas, M. Segura, N. Bahamon, J.M. Gili, D. Martin. 2017. Canyon effect and seasonal variability of deep-sea organisms in the NW Mediterranean: synchronous, year-long captures of "swimmers" from near-bottom sediment traps in a submarine canyon and its adjacent open slope. *Deep-Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*. 129: 99-115 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2017.10.002>. Times cited: 3. IF:2.48
  9. Almeida M., Frutos I., Company J. B., Martin D., **Romano C.**, Cunha M. R. 2017. Biodiversity of suprabenthic peracarid assemblages from the Blanes Canyon region (NW Mediterranean Sea) in relation to natural disturbance and trawling pressure. *Deep-Sea Research Part II*. 137: 390-403. Times cited: 7 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2016.06.019> IF:1.713
  10. Román S., Vanreusel A., Romano C., Ingels J., Puig P., Company J.B., Martin D. 2016. High spatiotemporal variability in meiofauna assemblages in Blanes Canyon (NW Mediterranean) subject to anthropogenic and natural disturbances. *Deep-Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*. 117: 70-83. Time cited:9 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2016.10.004> IF:2.48
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### **Other Publications and Symposium Proceedings**

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Non-Random Assembly Connect Diversity and Ecosystem Function on the Bottom of the Ocean. Deep-Sea Biology Symposium Brest, 12-17 September 2021

**Romano C.**, V. Tunnicliffe, G. W. Rouse, D. Martin 2018. Phylogeny and biogeography of deep-sea wood boring Xylophagainae (Mollusca, Bivalvia). International Deep-sea Biology Symposium. Monterey, California, USA, 9-15 September 2018. Poster

**Romano C.**, A. Nunes-Jorge, G. Rouse, C. Borowski, D. Martin. Diversity and biogeography of deep-sea wood boring Xylophagidae (Mollusca, Bivalvia) in European waters. Marine Evolution Conference 2018. Sweden, 15-17 May 2018. Poster

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**Romano C.**, F. Badalamenti, I. Carnevale , G. D'anna , E. Fanelli, G. Giunta, A. Mazzola, C. Pipitone, S. Vizzini. Preliminary results of trawling disturbance on benthic invertebrate communities in two areas of Northern Sicily (Western Mediterranean) 1<sup>o</sup> Forum IAMC-CNR Taormina .06-09. May 2007. Poster

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### **Publications in the media:**

two articles in the main Spanish national newspaper (La Vanguardia, 2010, 2011) and one in a Spanish television channel (XipTV 2013).

Since 2017, she created a website for the Marie Curie project (<http://www.deepfall-project.eu>) and also the social media accounts (Facebook: @DeepFallProject; Twitter: @DeepFall\_Proj) aimed to divulge not only the outcome of the project but also to update on recent deep-sea discoveries, conferences, oceanographic cruises, explorations and deep-sea research

### **Technical Reports**

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Final Report: PNUE/PAM-CAR/ASP, 2016. Tunisie: Cap Negro-Cap Serrat. Cartographie des habitats marins clés de Méditerranée et initiation de réseau de surveillance. Par: Torchia G., Rais C., Pititto F., Langar H., Bouafif C., Abidi A., Trainito E., Romano C., Berutti P., Dragan M., Camisassi S., Tronconi S., Sghaier Y.R., Ouerghi A. Ed. CAR/ASP – Projet MedKeyHabitats, Tunis. 78 pp + Annexes

Summary report of the available knowledge and gap analysis. UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, 2016. Montenegro: Platamuni and Ratac areas. by: Torchia G., Pititto F., Rais C., Trainito E., Badalamenti F., Romano C., Amosso C., Bouafif C., Dragan M., Camisassi S., Tronconi D., Macic V., Sghaier Y.R., Ouerghi A. Ed. RAC/SPA – MedKeyHabitats Project, Tunis: 32 pp

Final Report: UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, 2016. Montenegro: Platamuni and Ratac areas. Mapping of marine key habitats and initiation of monitoring network. by: Torchia G., Pititto F., Rais C., Trainito E., Badalamenti F., Romano C., Amosso C., Bouafif C., Dragan M., Camisassi S., Tronconi D., Macic V., Sghaier Y.R., Ouerghi A. Ed. RAC/SPA – MedKeyHabitats Project, Tunis: 77 pp + Annexes.

Final Report of the MedMPAnet Project on the “Ecological quantitative description of Boka Kotorska Bay marine area (Montenegro)” by Golder Associates. Ed. RAC/SPA, Tunis: 82 pp + Appendices.

Final Report of the project (PIEC 200430E599) on the “Assessment of the ecological impact of the extreme storm of Saint Stephen’s Day (26 December 2008) on the littoral ecosystems of the north Mediterranean Spanish coast  
[http://www2.ceab.csic.es/GAME/Sant\\_Esteve\\_Storm/HOME\\_files/Final%20report%20Sant%20Esteve.pdf](http://www2.ceab.csic.es/GAME/Sant_Esteve_Storm/HOME_files/Final%20report%20Sant%20Esteve.pdf)

Final Report of the Project “Predators and prey of the red mullet, *Mullus barbatus* L.: an approach with stable isotopes of Carbon and Nitrogen” December 2007. Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali. Italy

Final Report (Project 6A682, 6A83, 6A84.) “Evaluation of the efficacy of no-trawl areas through the study of the predatory and prey of the red mullet, *Mullus barbatus* L.” Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali. Italy

Final Report of the Project (6C 109) “Ripopolamento attivo di lagune, stagni costieri e localizzate aree della fascia costiera con giovanili certificati di specie ittiche e di crostacei, secondo i principi del codice di condotta per una pesca responsabile (FAO 95).” Sottoprogetto “Sviluppo di modelli di acquacoltura sostenibile per la valorizzazione conservativa delle saline del trapanese”. March 2005. Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali. Italy.

## **Membership**

- Since 2018 she is Member of the Society of Deep-Sea Biology
- Since 2013 She is member of the International network for scientific investigation of deep-sea ecosystems (INDEEP)

## **Other merits**

- Reviewer for top SCI Marine Biology and Ecology journals including Progress in Oceanography, Marine Biology, Marine Environmental Research, Deep Sea Research I, Frontiers in Marine Science
- Since 2020 Associate Editor for the Journal Frontiers in Marine Science
- Organiser for three years of the Science Communication Initiatives during the Open days at CEAB-CSIC.
- Since 2007 Certificate attesting competence to pursue the activity of a Biologist issued by the competent authorities following a State examination, University of Palermo (Italy).

## **References**

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