

IN MEMORIAM

SANDRO RUFFO (1915-2010)

Four students returned from a beautiful trip to the Lessinian Mountains near Verona, sitting packed like sardines in a small car together with their much esteemed teacher, fondly called “il nostro professore”. The mood was excellent and exuberant, as the latter had started to develop a crime thriller, in Italian “giallo”, just invented from one moment to another: a new amphipod species, a most beautiful and rare one, had disappeared! Was it stolen? Who could do such an action? What to do, whom even to suspect, which tips to pass on to a possible detective? Now an enumeration of colleagues and their characters as well as their possible motives for the theft of a new amphipod species followed. Of course everybody participated, inventing the most improbable and impossible theories – until agreeing the tube containing this valuable material should have rolled under the radiator...

Such scenarios and comparable situations were not too rare at the Veronese Museum: Sandro Ruffo, ever in a positive and cheerful mood, was very popular with his students. Until his ripe old age he liked very much to be surrounded by young people – even if he lost most of his own youth during the war.

Born in the summer of 1915 in the small wine makers’ town Soave near Verona, he concluded his studies of agronomy at barely 23 years of age with a doctoral degree at the University of Bologna and directly afterwards,



in 1939, he was called to arms. From the end of 1943 until mid -1945 he was a prisoner of war in Poland and Germany. It was typical for his ever brisk and enterprising nature that he not only offered lectures on different animal groups, eagerly attendend by his fellow prisoners, but also busily delved jointly with Marcello La Greca from Sicily into a systematic study of the German language: Marcello was a zoologist like him - they met in prison and became lifelong friends. By sheer chance they discovered a volume of “Reisen und Abenteuer des Freiherrn von Münchhausen” (Voyages and adventures of the Baron von Münchhausen) in a beautifully illustrated edition. Prone on their mattresses one of them lay and read aloud some sentences while the other looked up a word in the dictionary or corrected the pronunciation.

In November 1945, Sandro succeeded in receiving employment as Curator of Zoology at the Verona Natural History Museum, thanks to the contacts he had established during his student times. After accomplishing the “libera docenza” in 1952, he taught from 1958 until 1966 as Professor of Entomology at the University of Modena, but in 1964 became already director of the Museum Verona.

During three successive years after the war Sandro stayed one entire month at the famous “Stazione di Napoli” in order to collect amphipods – and also looked in vain for the voucher specimens of Della Valle’s monograph “Fauna und Flora des Golfes von Neapel: Gammarini”: but that material passed as lost or destroyed during the wars. However, while teaching zoology in the 1960s at the University of Modena, Sandro came across a large container in a corridor filled with a brownish fluid and many small tubes. When Sandro inquired about the contents, he was told that the container was soon to be disposed of as waste. As a classical museologist, Sandro disliked discarding objects collected by other scientists and asked if he could take that material with him to the Veronese Museum, as he was eager to discover the container’s secrets. The container was transferred to Verona as soon as a museum’s car load was available and stowed away there in the attic, the dark fluid with the tubes in it looking not too inviting for further inspection. But one late afternoon curiosity won over – to Sandro’s great surprise he found amphipods in these tubes as well as pencil written labels: the container held without any doubt the collection of Della Valle from the Gulf of Naples!! It had been totally forgotten that Della Valle, too, had taught several years at the University of Modena and had apparently taken his voucher specimens with him. This series of type material, now in a new home in the Museum of Verona, became a valuable base for the currently so rich collection begun by Sandro Ruffo with a single tube in the 1930s. This collections is now one of the most comprehensive amphipod collections in the world.

Among his more than 300 publications (not only on Amphipoda, but also on various insect groups, mostly coleopterans, but also of a popularizing nature) certainly the treatise “The Amphipoda of the Mediterranean”, encompassing 4 volumes and almost 1000 pages, should be highlighted. The idea for this treatise originated in 1969, as Sandro began jointly with Traudl Krapp to sort his own collections from the Gulf of Naples as a base for a new edition of Della Valle’s monograph. Very soon both realised that the number of species was far too large for two authors – as well as the further step for the treatment of the entire Mediterranean Sea could not be too ambitious. Collaborators were sought internationally and came from Ireland, France, Norway, Yugoslavia, Germany and Italy. A first meeting united them in the first years of the 1970s. The Italian Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Scientifiche) generously funded the small conference, and all participants were lodged and fed in the luxurious hotel “Accademia” in the historical city center of Verona.

From the very beginning to the conclusion of the last volume in 1998, Sandro Ruffo worked nearly 3 decades meticulously and with devotion to realize his large project. Eighty years old, he even learned to use the computer and typed most of the fourth volume on his small laptop! Then he went in person to the Museum of Monaco to hand over all the unwieldy tables of figures drawn by hand in Indian ink, as he dared not to entrust them to the mail service (how fortunate we are now without such problems in the age of the internet!).

At this point it seems appropriate to point out what is the correct way to cite this book, as the literature abounds with different citation formats. The Library of the Monaco Museum, which printed and published this work, cites in this way:

RUFFO, S., ed. 1982. The Amphipoda of the Mediterranean part 1.- pp. I-XIII & 1-364, fig. 1-243.

RUFFO, S., ed. 1989. The Amphipoda ... part 2.- pp. XV-XIC & 365-576, fig. 244-396.

RUFFO, S., ed. 1993. The Amphipoda ... part 3.- pp. XXI-XXV & 577-813, fig. 397-553.

RUFFO, S. ed. 1998. The Amphipoda ... part 4.- pp. XXVII-XLIV & 815-959.

If citing only a particular chapter, the author(s) are to be cited with title of the chapter, year and pagination, and proceeding “IN: Ruffo, S. ed.....” of the corresponding volume.

Among the numerous honours which were given to Ruffo throughout his life, two are to be specially mentioned: the Golden Medal for his merits in

Italian culture, for he converted the Verona Museum from a provincial to a worldwide known one,- as well as his “laurea ad honorem” of Bologna University acknowledging “conservazione e gestione del patrimonio naturale” (maintenance and management of the natural resources), which he received in 2007 with a freely spoken lecture, an enormous psychical and physical endeavour.

With the passing of Sandro Ruffo, one of the last specialists equally at home in the study of marine as well as freshwater amphipods disappears. Now we live in times of necessary specialisation, but generally the (public) interest in biodiversity is rapidly diminishing: taxonomists in the field of Amphipoda are an “endangered species”. That is in part due to the astonishingly easy financing of expensive apparatus and gear, while the relatively modest investment in dissecting and compound microscopes with an attached drawing tube is considered “cheap” and therefore seemingly of inferior quality.

Highest praise by our “professore” was to be considered a “naturalista”, that is a person who is well oriented in many reaches of nature. That was especially true of Sandro Ruffo, as he was living for and with nature. One sort of proof are the 124 species from the entire spectre of animals which were dedicated to him as new species in the following animal taxa: 3 Nematoda, 1 Gastropoda, 3 Annelida, 1 Opiliones, 4 Pseudoscorpiones, 2 Acari, 7 Araneae, 1 Pycnogonida, 1 Branchiopoda, 4 Maxillopoda, 1 Stygocaridea, 1 Bathynellida, 8 Isopoda, 28 Amphipoda, 2 Chilopoda, 2 Diplopoda, 1 Pauropoda, 2 Collembola, 2 Ephemeroptera, 2 Orthoptera, 1 Plecoptera, 2 Heteroptera, 31 Coleoptera, 3 Diptera, 1 Trichoptera, 1 Lepidoptera, 2 Tardigrada, 3 Osteichthyes, 1 Reptilia, 1 Mammalia.

All these zoological colleagues and, even more, the great family of amphipodologists owe him endless stimulations, seen his ever-present curiosity and his contagious joy in understanding nature, and so enlarging our knowledge.

Thank you, Sandro!

More than 200 taxa described by Sandro Ruffo:

new species:

Afridiella messanai Diviacco & Ruffo, 1985 (Bogidiellidae)

Afridiella pectinicauda Ruffo, 1982 (Bogidiellidae)

Albanogammarus inguscioi Ruffo, 1992 (Gammaridae)

Ampithoe marcuzii Ruffo, 1954 (Ampithoidae)

- Andaniexis mimonectes* Ruffo, 1975 (Stegocephalidae)
Austroniphargus starmuehlneri (Austroniphargids)
Autonoe catalaunica Ruffo, Cartes & Sorbe, 1999 (Aoridae)
Bogidiella arganoi Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1974 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella cerberus Bou & Ruffo, 1979 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella daccordii Ruffo, 1994 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella hebraeae Ruffo, 1963 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella holsingeri Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1974 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella ichnusae Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1975 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella lindbergi Ruffo, 1958 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella michaelae Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1977 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella minotaurus Ruffo & Schiecke, 1976 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella neotropica Ruffo, 1952 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella niphargoides Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1977 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella nubica Ruffo, 1984 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella orchestipes Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1977 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella pasquinii Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1977 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella sbordonii Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1974 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella somala Ruffo, 1970 (Bogidiellidae)
Bogidiella vomeroi Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1977 (Bogidiellidae)
Bollegidia capensis Ruffo, 1974 (Bogidiellidae)
Caprella lilliput Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 1987 (Caprellidae)
Cheiriphotis erythraeus Ruffo, 1969 (Isaeidae)
Cottarellia minima Ruffo, 1994 (Cheirocratidae)
Cressa mediterranea Ruffo, 1979 (Cressidae)
Dussartiella madegassa Ruffo, 1979 (?paracrangonyctids)
Echinogammarus catacumbae Karaman & Ruffo, 1977 (Gammaridae)
Echinogammarus pacaudi Hubault & Ruffo, 1956 (Gammaridae)
Elasmopus canarius Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 1990 (Maeridae)
Elasmopus podotrichius Ruffo, 1969 (Maeridae)
Elasmopus steinitzi Ruffo, 1959 (Maeridae)
Eriopisa gracilis Ruffo & Schiecke, 1976 (Melitidae)
Eriopisella chieregoi Ruffo, 1985 (Melitidae)
Gammaropisa arganoi Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1988 (Gammaridae)
Gammaropsis photisimilis Ruffo, 1969 (Isaeidae)
Gammarus afghanus Ruffo, 1958 (Gammaridae)
Gammarus anisocheirus Ruffo, 1959 (Gammaridae)
Gammarus elvirae Iannilli & Ruffo, 2002 (Gammaridae)
Guernea petalocera Ruffo, 1959 (Dexaminidae)
Hadzia minuta Ruffo, 1947 (Hadziidae)
Hadzia pachypoda Ruffo, 1982 (Hadziidae)

- Hippomedon ambiguus* Ruffo, 1946 (Lysianassoidea)
Hyale milloti Ruffo, 1958 (Hyalidae)
Hyale pygmaea Ruffo, 1950 (Hyalidae)
Hyalella anophthalma Ruffo, 1957 (Hyaellidae)
Indoweckelia stocki Ruffo, Holsinger & Sawicki, 2003 (weckeliids)
Indoweckelia superstes Holsinger & Ruffo, 2002 (weckeliids)
Ingolfiella beatricis Ruffo & Vonk, 2001 (Ingolfiellidae)
Ingolfiella berisfordi Ruffo, 1974 (Ingolfiellidae)
Ingolfiella cottarellii Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1989 (Ingolfiellidae)
Ingolfiella leleupi Ruffo, 1951 (Ingolfiellidae)
Ingolfiella xarifae Ruffo, 1966 (Ingolfiellidae)
Iphimedia brachygnatha Ruffo & Schiecke, 1978 (Iphimediidae)
Iphimedia gibbula Ruffo & Schiecke, 1978 (Iphimediidae)
Iphimedia orchestimana Ruffo, 1959 (Iphimediidae)
Iphimedia quasimodus Ruffo & Schiecke, 1978 (Iphimediidae)
Iphimedia serratipes Ruffo & Schiecke, 1978 (Iphimediidae)
Iphimedia vicina Ruffo & Schiecke, 1978 (Iphimediidae)
Ischyrocerus inexpectatus Ruffo, 1959 (Ischyroceridae)
Josephosella andamana Ruffo, 1985 (Melitidae)
Kerguelenella macra Ruffo, 1970 (Bogidiellidae)
Laetmatophilus ledoyeri Ruffo, 1986 (Podoceridae)
Leleupiella eggerti Ruffo, 1964 (Ingolfiellidae)
Lepidepecreum crypticum Ruffo & Schiecke, 1977 (Tryphosinae)
Lepidepecreum subclypeatum Ruffo & Schiecke, 1977 (Tryphosinae)
Leucothoe quadrimana Ruffo, 1946 (Leucothoidae)
Longigammarus planasiae Messina & Ruffo, 2001 (Gammaridae)
Lunulogammarus turcicus Krapp-Schickel, Ruffo & Schiecke, 1994 (Gammaridae)
Lysianassa caesarea Ruffo, 1987 (Lysianassinae)
Lysianassa hypocrita Ruffo, 1953 (Lysianassidae)
Maera ariadne Krapp, Marti & Ruffo, 1996 (Maeridae)
Maera ariel Ruffo, Krapp & Gable, 2000 (Maeridae)
Maera aurora Krapp, Marti & Ruffo, 1996 (Maeridae)
Maera caliban Ruffo, Krapp & Gable, 2000 (Maeridae)
Maera ceres Ruffo, Krapp & Gable, 2000 (Maeridae)
Maera micronyx Ruffo, 1946 (Maeridae)
Maera miranda Ruffo, Krapp & Gable, 2000 (Maeridae)
Maera pachytelson Karaman & Ruffo, 1971 (Maeridae)
Maera revelata Krapp, Marti & Ruffo, 1996 (Maeridae)
Maera schellenbergi Ruffo, 1938 (Maeridae)
Maera schieckei Karaman & Ruzffo, 1971 (Maeridae)
Maera sodalis Karaman & Ruffo, 1971 (Maeridae)

- Maeracoota galani* Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2001 (Maeridae)
Maghrebiella maroccana Diviacco & Ruffo, 1985 (Bogidiellidae)
Melita nitidula Ruffo, 1958 (Melitidae)
Melita virgula Krapp-Schickel, Ruffo & Schiecke, 1994 (Melitidae)
Metaceradocus vesentinae Ruffo, 1969 (Melitidae)
Metacrangonyx longicaudus Ruffo, 1954 (Metacrangonyctidae)
Metacrangonyx panousei Balazuc & Ruffo, 1953 (Metacrangonyctidae)
Metacrangonyx remyi Balazuc & Ruffo, 1953 (Metacrangonyctidae)
Metacrangonyx sinaicus Ruffo, 1982 (Metacrangonyctidae)
Metaingolfiella mirabilis Ruffo, 1969 (Ingolfiellidae)
Microphotis blachei Ruffo, 1952 (Isaeidae)
Nihotunga traudlina Ruffo, 2004 (Nihotungidae)
Niphargus delamarei Ruffo, 1954 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus foreli apuanus Ruffo, 1937 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus galvagni similis Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus kochianus longidactylus Ruffo, 1937 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus orcinus parenzani Ruffo & Vigna Taglianti, 1968 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus orcinus patrizii Ruffo & Vigna Taglianti, 1968 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus skopljensis angelieri Ruffo, 1954 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus stefanellii Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti, 1968 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus strouhali alpinus Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus stygius brixianus Ruffo, 1937 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus stygius pedemontanus Ruffo, 1937 (Niphargidae)
Niphargus tamaninii kochianus Ruffo, 1953 (Niphargidae)
Nubigidiella teresiae Holsinger, Iannilli & Ruffo, 2009 (Hadziidae)
Orchestia kosswigi Ruffo, 1949 (Talitridae)
Orchestia starmuehlneri Ruffo & Vesenini, 1972 (Talitridae)
Orchestia stocki Ruffo, 1990 (Talitridae)
Pachychelium mediterraneum Ruffo, 1975 (pachynids)
Paracalliope novaecaledoniae Ruffo & Vesentini, 1972 (Paracalliopiidae)
Paradusa bilobata Ruffo, 1969 (Amphithoidae)
Paramoera parva Ruffo, 1949 (Eusiroidea)
Paramoerella interstitialis Ruffo, 1974 (Eusiridae)
Parhyalella congoensis Ruffo, 1953 (Hyaellidae)
Photis distinguenda Ruffo, 1955 (Isaeidae)
Phreatomelita ppaceae Ruffo, 1979 (Hadziidae)
Podocerus schiecke Ruffo, 1986 (Podoceridae)
Proboloides palmatus Ruffo, 1949 (Stenothoidae)
Proboloides stephensi Ruffo, 1949 (Stenothoidae)
Psammoniphargus pauliani Ruffo, 1956 (Hadziidae)
Pseudoniphargus africanus italicus Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Pseudoniphargidae)

- Pseudoniphargus inconditus* Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Pseudoniphargidae)
Pseudoniphargus sodalis Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Pseudoniphargidae)
Quadrimaera cristianae Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2000 (Melitidae)
Quadrimaera franzi Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2000 (Melitidae)
Quadrimaera pieteri Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2000 (Melitidae)
Quadrimaera santinae Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2006 (Melitidae)
Quadrimaera sarae Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2000 (Melitidae)
Rhinolabia parthenopeia Ruffo, 1971 (Lysianassoidea)
Salentinella angelieri pisana Ruffo, 1953 (Salentinellidae)
Salentinella angelieri Ruffo & Delamare Deboutteville, 1952 (Salentinellidae)
Salentinella franciscoloi Ruffo, 1953 (Salentinellidae)
Salentinella gracillima Ruffo, 1947 (Salentinellidae)
Seborgia schieckei Ruffo, 1985 (Sebidae)
Sinogammarus troglodytes Karaman & Ruffo, 1995 (Gammaridae)
Siphonoecetes erythraeus Ruffo, 1959 (Corophiidae)
Stockigidiella aequimana Iannilli, Holsinger, Ruffo & Vonk, 2006 (Bogidiellida)
Stygobarnardia caprellinoides Ruffo, 1985 (Ingolfiellidae)
Synchelidium longidigitatum Ruffo, 1947 (Oedicerotidae)
Synurella osellai Ruffo, 1974 (Crangonyctidae)
Talitrus saltator briani Ruffo, 1936 (Talitridae)
Talitrus tasmaniae Ruffo, 1948 (Talitridae)
Talorchestia marczuzii Ruffo, 1950 (Talitridae)
Talorchestia pelecaniiformis Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1986 (Talitridae)
Talorchestia ugolinii Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1991 (Talitridae)
Tryphosella longidactyla Ruffo, 1985 (Tryphosinae)
Tryphosella simillima Ruffo, 1985 (Tryphosinae)
Tyrrhenogammarus sardous Karaman & Ruffo, 1989 (Gammaridae)
Urothoe intermedia Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1986 (Urothoidae)

new genera:

- Albanogammarus* Ruffo, 1992
Amphitholina Ruffo, 1953
Arganogidiella Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti 1973
Bollegidia Ruffo, 1974
Caledonietta Iannilli & Ruffo, 2007
Cottarellia Ruffo 1995
Davidia Iannilli, Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo in press
Dussartiella Ruffo, 1979
Gammaropisa Ruffo & Vigna-Taglianti 1987
Indoweckelia Holsinger & Ruffo, 2002

Josephosella Ruffo, 1985
Kerguelenella Ruffo, 1970
Kergueleniola Ruffo, 1970
Libertinia Iannilli, Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo in press
Maghrebidiella Diviacco & Ruffo, 1985
Metaingolfiella Ruffo, 1969
Microphotis Ruffo, 1952
Neogammarus Ruffo, 1937
Omangidiella Iannilli, Holsinger, Ruffo, Vonk 2006
Paradusa Ruffo, 1969
Paramoerella Ruffo 1974
Pardia Ruffo, 1987
Psammoniphargus Ruffo, 1956
Pseudingolfiella Ruffo, 1974
Phreatomelita Ruffo, 1979
Quadrimaera Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2000
Reinhardia Iannilli, Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo in press
Rhinolabia Ruffo, 1971
Salentinella Ruffo, 1947
Sinogammarus Karaman & Ruffo 1971
Stockigidiella Iannilli, Holsinger, Ruffo, Vonk 2006
Stygobarnardia Ruffo, 1985
Trogloleleupa Ruffo, 1970
Tyrrhenogammarus Karaman & Ruffo 1990

new families:

Metaingolfiellidae Ruffo, 1969
 Austroniphargidae Iannilli, Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo in press
 Furthermore he described 17 new taxa of Coleoptera and 3 new taxa in other groups.

For the detailed citation of 294 published papers by Sandro Ruffo, please see Krapp-Schickel, T. & Krapp, F., 2010: *J. Crust. Biol.* 30(4), 779-796.

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